

The Sporting News

1988

PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

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The Trade: Eric Dickerson for a Future Investment

Team-by-Team Reports, Rosters and 1988 Schedules

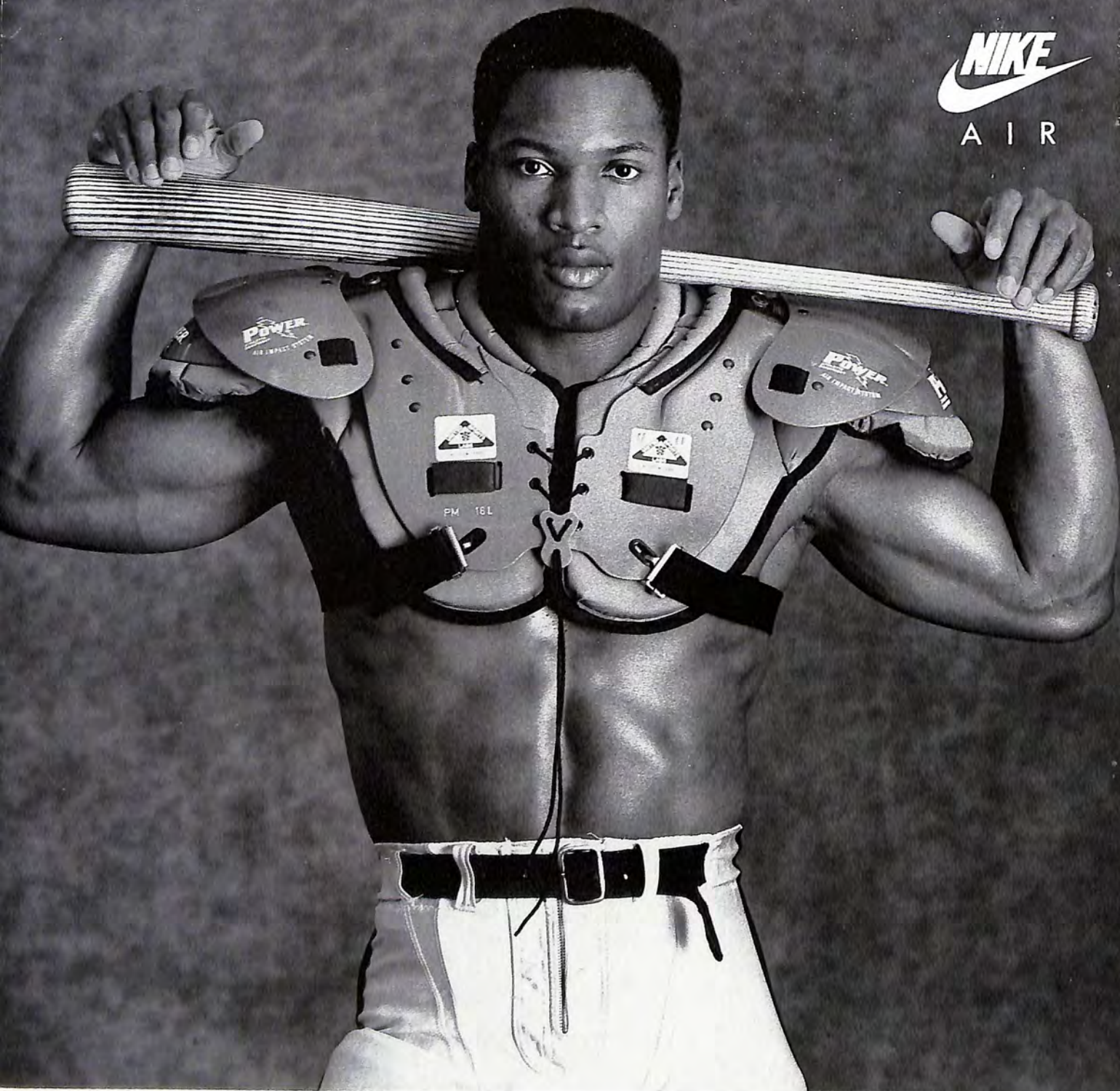
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1988 Pro Football Yearbook

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Seattle's Steve Largent.

Team analyses were written by the 28 correspondents who cover the clubs weekly for THE SPORTING NEWS during the football season. Their reports and the rosters in this publication were prepared before the opening day of training camp and may not reflect late changes in personnel.

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IT DIDN'T RAIN ON

'Super' Hero Williams Finds Peace, Solitude At Louisiana Home

By **TERENCE MOORE**
Atlanta Constitution

To find America's most reluctant hero, you drive three miles from the center of Zachary, La., take a left onto the two-lane highway heading toward Hamilton's Groceries, turn right onto Lemon Road and proceed to the middle of nowhere.

Around the first turn, you'll see a series of brick homes that belong to the Williams clan.

"I guess there are 100 to 150 of us within this general area," said Robert Williams Sr., who provides off-season sanctuary to his son, the football star. The visitors keep coming, and the phone keeps ringing, but Doug Williams is safe and warm—and smiling.

Williams, the sixth of eight children, is back in his own world, a rural community of about 9,500, and his wonderful January Sunday in San Diego is mostly a blur. He remembers, all right. He remembers how he limped into the second quarter of Super Bowl XXII after injuring his knee. He remembers how he led the Washington Redskins to a playoff-record 35 points in the quarter. He remembers how he was the architect of the Redskins' 42-10 victory over the Denver Broncos. And he remembers the questions about his skin color, about Doug Williams being the only black quarterback ever to start a Super Bowl. He remembers, he smiles again and he takes another sip from his soft drink.

"People keep calling and screaming, 'Man, this is great. Aren't you excited?'" Williams says. "I guess they want me to say, 'Yeah, I'm excited.' I don't know what I'm supposed to say. Am I supposed to

shout, 'Hallelujah,' or sing, 'We shall overcome?' I've never been in this situation before. People around me are more excited than I am."

In Zachary's long history, nobody ever had been deemed important enough to be honored with a special day. Nobody. Not even Donna Douglas, a hometown girl who played Elly May on "The Beverly Hillbillies" television series. But that changed in February when Zachary celebrated and received a big dose of national prominence.

A crowd of 25,000 was on hand February 13 for "Doug Williams Day." The highlight was a parade that included the Zachary High School Marching Band, the Chaneyville Fire Department and members of the local women's softball team that Williams coaches each summer. The governor of Louisiana was present, too, as were former teammates from Grambling State University, the Oklahoma Outlaws and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. A group of Redskins fans made the trip from Washington on a chartered plane.

Actually, the celebration had begun long before that February day. Townspeople already had spent the early part of the year saluting their conquering hero. This quiet man with the easy smile has spent only football seasons away from Zachary during his 32 years and local businessmen wanted to honor him for his loyalty.

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Williams had put on the most impressive quarterback show in Super Bowl history and the performance was punctuated by Zachary's sign and neon light show that extolled the virtues of the town's fa-

'Doug Williams Day' attracted a crowd of 25,000 as proud Zachary, La., residents honored the presiding Super Bowl hero and their favorite son.

vorite son.

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Williams confounded Denver's defense by passing for a record 340 yards and a record-tying four touchdowns as the Redskins gained a record 602 total yards. Even more impressive was the way Williams and company wiped out Denver's 10-0 first-quarter lead after the quarterback had twisted his knee on Jack Murphy Stadium's slippery



DOUG'S PARADE



grass.

Williams, who had undergone emergency root-canal work on his teeth the day before, missed one play, on which backup quarterback Jay Schroeder threw an incomplete pass. He limped back into the game to start the second quarter, he limped back into the pocket on the Redskins' first play and he limped back to the bench after connecting on an 80-yard touchdown pass to Ricky Sanders. The rout was on.

Four touchdown passes and 42 points later, the sore-mouthed and gimpy-legged Williams was trapped in a different kind of pocket. But he was handling questions with the same poise, patience and confi-

dence with which he had thrown the football only minutes before. Even the questions about skin color.

"I wasn't the quarterback of the Washington Redskins because I was black. That's the important thing," Williams said. "It's been a long week, but a good week. There have been a lot of black questions, but once we got on the practice field, the most important thing was working hard and doing what we did today. That's why I didn't let anything affect me."

Williams' pregame distractions were many, maybe more than those endured by any Super Bowl participant ever. Williams was barely 20 minutes into his first

Super Week press conference when confronted by this unlikely comment:

"Doug, you've obviously been a black quarterback all of your life. . ."

As laughter grew louder throughout the room, Williams' mouth formed a little smile. He waited for the noise to dwindle.

"There was more emphasis put on that fact after I left Grambling," he said. "When I came to the NFL, that's when I really became black."

There were more giggles, but everybody in the room knew that this was not really a laughing matter.

The black issue had first appeared in

Continued

DOUG WILLIAMS

Continued

Williams' life when he joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as a No. 1 draft choice in 1978. He wasn't the only black quarterback at that time, but he appeared to be the most gifted. Perhaps he would destroy the stereotypes that had come to be associated with black quarterbacks: That they weren't smart enough to play the position, weren't dependable and weren't willing to do the necessary work.

Those were pretty lofty expectations, indeed. Williams became an instant starter with the lowly Bucs and worked under the guidance of quarterbacks coach Joe Gibbs. But the young, struggling Bucs

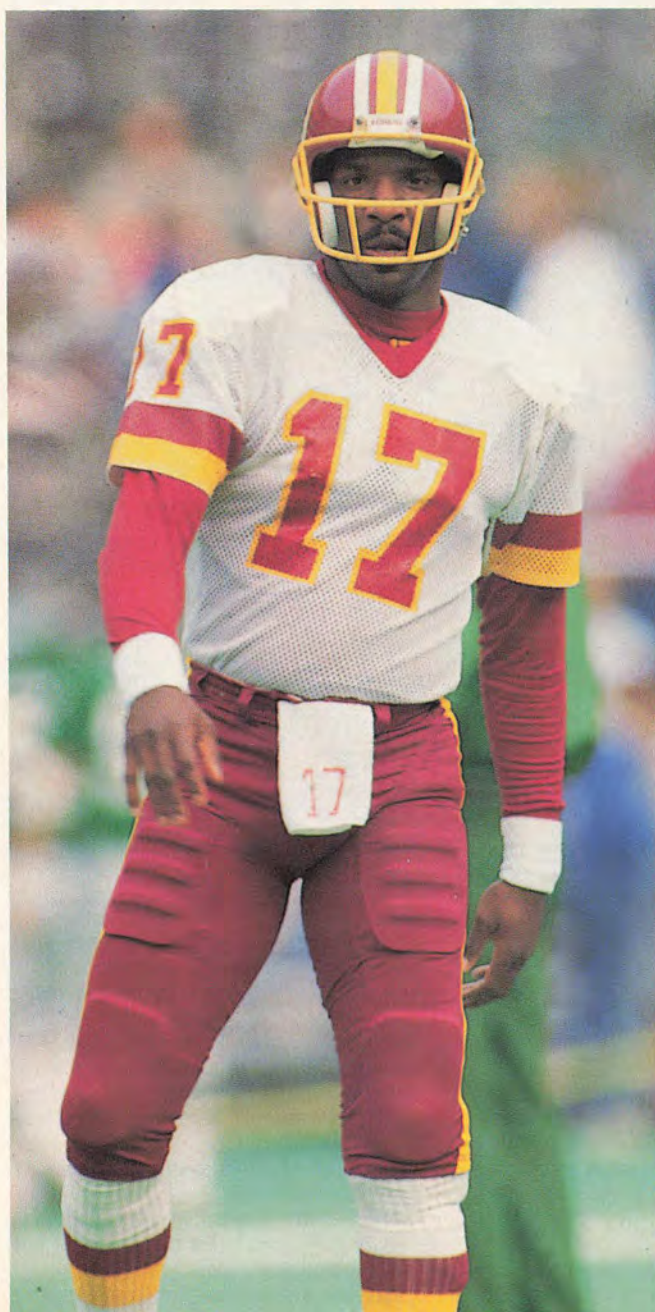
were as inexperienced and unsure as their new quarterback. In short, the youngster with the powerful but erratic throwing arm was never given the chance to develop his skills or play with outstanding offensive personnel.

Even though Williams led the Bucs to the NFC championship game in 1979, his career sputtered into and through the early '80s, and so, too, did the questions of black versus white. But when Williams' two touchdown passes pushed the Redskins by the Minnesota Vikings in the National Football Conference's 1988 championship game, the issue resurfaced and

the national media began focusing more on the darkness of his skin. This time, however, Williams knew how to deal with the issue. When all was said and done in Super Bowl XXII, millions of football fans looked past the skin and instead noted the strength of his heart and the lightness of his suddenly bright pro football career.

Williams was awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy the day after the Super Bowl, and then returned to Reston, Va., his football-season home. The rest of the week was hectic. He received treatment

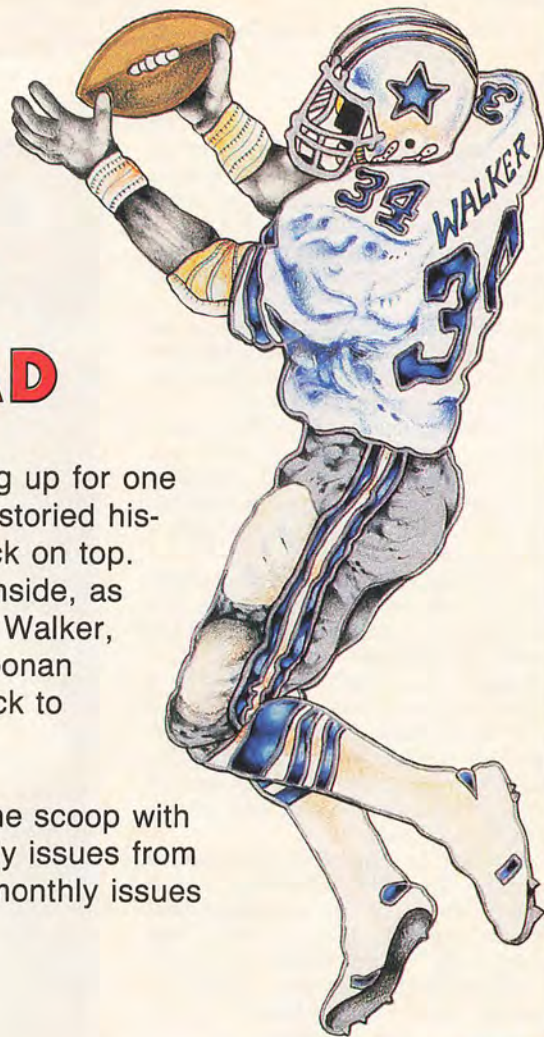
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Doug Williams, strong-armed Washington quarterback (left), and Doug Williams, Zachary's man about town.

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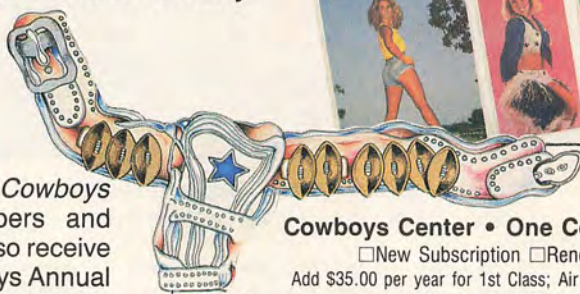
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DOUG WILLIAMS

Continued

on his strained left knee, joined teammates to meet President Ronald Reagan at the White House and to participate in a parade before an estimated 600,000 people in downtown Washington and attended a function at nearby Howard University.

He spent the next few days packing for his return to Zachary with brother Robert before pausing Friday night to visit a seafood restaurant in Alexandria, Va.

"I couldn't relax, because people were coming up to me again and again and again," Williams says. "I don't mind signing autographs, but when people start taking the fork out of your mouth, that's a different story."

"In a situation like this, you want everything to slow down a little. Before, you could go to a mall and fade into the crowd. Not anymore."

Williams discovered the magnitude of his new-found celebrity status when he arrived at the Baton Rouge Metro Airport after leaving the Washington area. His plane was three hours late and he was looking forward to the nice quiet 20-minute ride to Zachary.

But when he entered the terminal, he couldn't move his muscular frame through the hundreds of adoring fans. They waved signs. They chanted, "Doug, Doug, Doug." With Williams carrying his 5-year-old daughter, Ashley, against his shoulder, he was escorted slowly through the crowd by area policemen.

Since then, Williams has spent much of his time relaxing at his parents' home, where he greets relatives and friends and enjoys the home-cooked meals of his mother, Laura Williams. He returns to his two-story, brick home down the road mostly to sleep and to change clothes. His phone number was listed in the Zachary directory prior to the Super Bowl. No more.

"I've been getting calls from people asking me to attend every type of function you could possibly name, from pee-wee football leagues to everything else, and it got to the point where I had to unplug the phone," Williams says.

"They always begin the same way by saying, 'Of course, congratulations...' I just need some time to think about what I want to do in regards to appearances and endorsements during the off-season."

Williams wasn't exactly besieged by lucrative endorsements after his Super Bowl heroics. His picture appeared on boxes of Wheaties, and he did a television commercial for Disney World/Disneyland, but both endorsements were designated ahead of time for the Super Bowl's winning quarterback. Except for a call to appear on the Oprah Winfrey Show, and an offer from a sporting goods firm named Champion, Williams' corporate phone has been silent.

"I haven't gotten stuff along those lines



Redskins quarterback Doug Williams holds daughter Ashley as he poses in his Zachary home with mother Laura and father Robert Sr.

for 10 years, so I'm not going to worry about it now," says Williams. "I'm not going to jump at just anything. I'm interested in getting three or four quality deals that will fit my personality. I want some endorsements that will last for a while."

"The Champion deal wasn't a good deal financially. I'd say we're really not going to know how this is going to work out for me until another month or so."

There were reports that Williams' endorsement potential suffered because of confusion over who represents him. There was New Orleans judge Eddie Sapir, who also handles Billy Martin of the New York Yankees, and there was Washington businessman and longtime friend Bob Piper. After much thought, Williams

decided the best person to represent Doug Williams is Doug Williams.

"There are too many people out there trying to jockey for position," Williams says. "Eddie will handle the legal side of things, but I'm going to make all the final decisions."

Such a philosophy isn't new for Williams. When he was asked by Redskins General Manager Bobby Beathard before the 1986 season to leave the unemployment ranks and become Schroeder's backup, Williams avoided agents and negotiated his own contract. He says he will handle the negotiations during future salary talks with the Redskins, too.

"They've been good to me from the

Continued

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DOUG WILLIAMS

Continued

very beginning, so I don't expect any problems," Williams says. "I want them to start by giving me a figure. We'll work from there."

Of more immediate concern is whether Williams can retain his starting job. Barring a trade, the 27-year-old Schroeder, a Pro Bowl quarterback two seasons ago and the Redskins' starter last year until he was benched for Williams, will be hungry and ready to do battle. As a result, many Williams followers will be watching closely to see if he can recover from off-season arthroscopic knee surgery and fight off the challenge.

"I'm not going to worry about what might happen next season," Williams says. "Let's just say that most people have a tendency to play the guys who won the Super Bowl for them the previous year. People judge quarterbacks by how many Super Bowls they've won."

"In fact, somebody summed up my performance best by saying that I've won as many Super Bowls as Joe Namath and Johnny Unitas, and that I've won more Super Bowls than Fran Tarkenton, Dan Marino and John Elway."

Williams smiles easily these days, even when he remembers his sometimes turbulent past.

Before arriving in Tampa Bay, the expansion Bucs had suffered through 0-14 and 2-12 seasons. They made the playoffs three times during Williams' five seasons, but he couldn't win over skeptical fans and became the punch line of jokes that questioned everything from his efficiency to his intelligence. Williams got the last laugh, however. Since his departure in 1983, the Bucs have finished 2-14, 6-10, 2-14 and 4-11. Management has run through four starting quarterbacks during that stretch.

Williams watched his old team's turmoil as a quarterback in the now-defunct United States Football League, where he landed in '83 after a salary dispute with the Bucs. Then, two years into his five-year contract with the Oklahoma Outlaws, the team folded. The league soon followed.

But along came the Redskins, who acquired Williams' rights from Tampa Bay, and the strong-armed veteran has evolved into the people's choice after shuffling between the sideline and the huddle.

"There is a certain air about Doug that commands respect," says Redskins offensive tackle Mark May. "When he comes into the game, there are no arguments. He has our complete attention."

Adds Beathard, "Doug has the intangible qualities that you look for in a quarterback. He makes the team better than it really is. He makes those around him much better. He deserves every bit of praise he's getting."

Williams, literally, was a forgotten man when he arrived in Washington two sea-

sons ago. Schroeder was the Redskins' brightest star, the fair-haired, fair-skinned, Pro Bowl quarterback with the big arm and the bigger future, and Washington Coach Joe Gibbs (the same Joe Gibbs from Williams' Tampa Bay days) couldn't afford to tamper with success. Schroeder passed for 4,109 yards and 22 touchdowns.

Williams? The big righthander threw once for the season. The pass was incomplete.

Williams knew he was running out of time. So, he requested a trade. Only the Los Angeles Raiders showed interest, and they wanted Williams as a backup to Rusty Hilger and Marc Wilson. The Raiders offered a second-round pick and,



Signs in Zachary were positive as the Redskins and Doug Williams prepared for Super Sunday.

after some soul searching, Gibbs urged Beathard to make the deal. Then, suddenly, Gibbs changed his mind.

Williams wasn't pleased, but Gibbs' cold feet eventually worked to warm Williams' heart.

Before Williams' coming-out party, the two quarterbacks swapped turns starting during the regular season until Gibbs named Schroeder as his man in early December. Williams was upset. "It wasn't so much being benched," Williams says. "It was everything that has happened in my life."

Such as the horrible 1983 campaign in which Williams lost both his job and his wife. He was in the middle of his salary dispute with the Bucs when his wife of less than a year, Janice, complained of headaches. Doctors discovered a brain tumor the size of a grapefruit, and she was dead a week later. Their daughter was less than three months old at the time.

"Suddenly, I didn't give a damn if I played another down of football or not," Williams says. "Throw out 1983, and I would have had a perfect life."

His world moved closer to perfection last season when Gibbs decided to replace Schroeder with Williams during the Red-

skins' regular-season finale against Minnesota.

The Redskins haven't lost since.

Williams recalls how the Redskins were underdogs before the Super Bowl's opening kickoff. According to experts across the country, Denver was the better team because of Elway, their nifty-footed quarterback with the rifle arm and the sterling press clippings.

As for the other guy, there were mostly questions, statements and comments during the week about his blackness. The interrogation of Williams ranged from the ridiculous ("Will you be representing the black race when you play on Sunday?") to the amusing ("Doug, obviously you've been a black quarterback all your life...").

Still, the man of the moment remained cool, calm and collected. He answered every question, without flinching, without the hint of anger. Later, he refused to gloat. He smiled at the cameras and said he'd save his deepest thoughts on Super Week XXII for another day. Now listen:

"The media treated the Washington Redskins during that week like we were the Ringling Brothers circus—you know, like come on over and see the two-headed woman or the elephant man or the black quarterback," Williams says. "When they wanted to talk about football, they went over to Denver. I made up my mind before going to San Diego that I wasn't going to let them (reporters) control me. They kept asking me about pressure, because they wanted me to be under pressure."

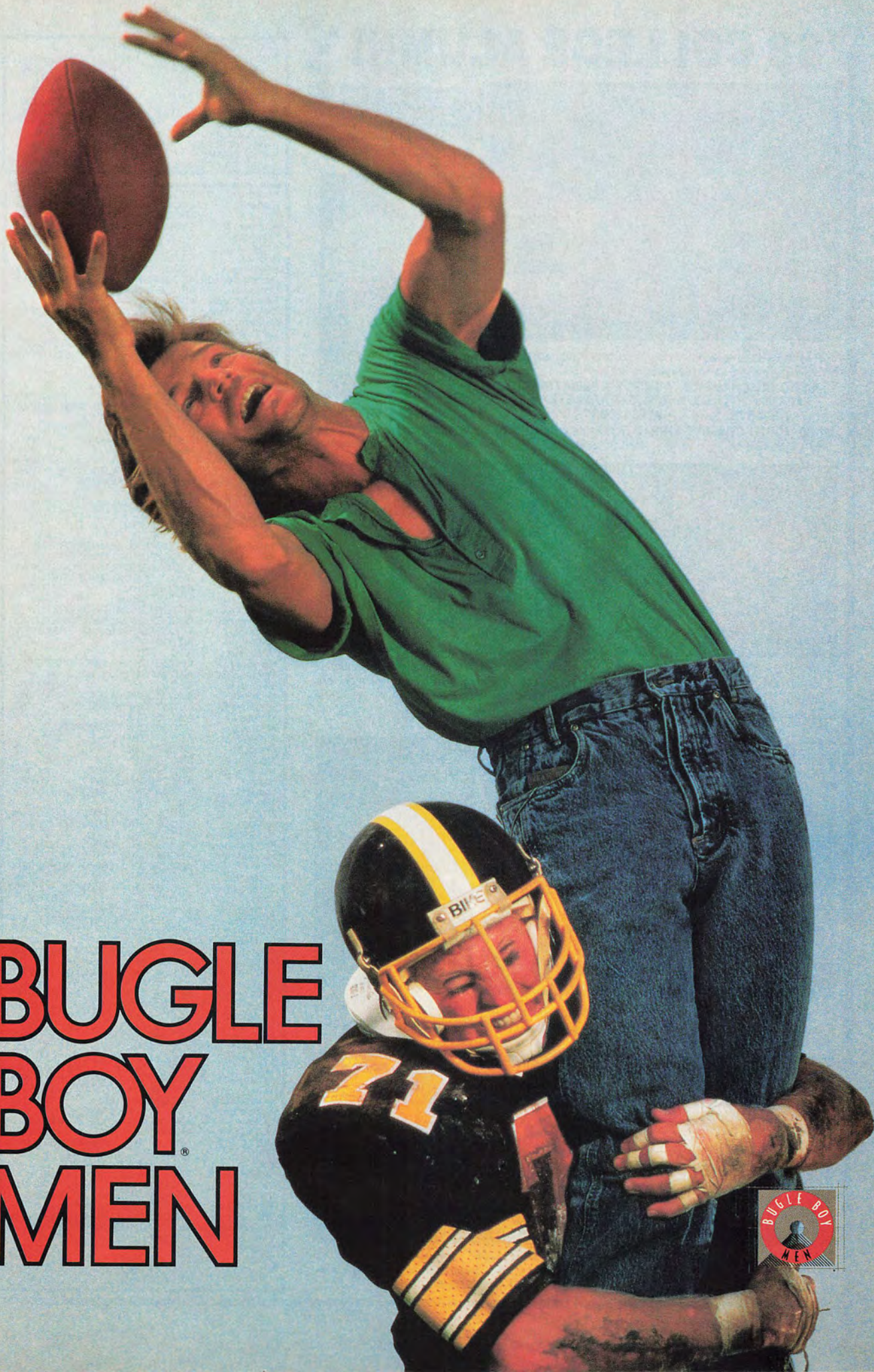
"Why would they keep elaborating on the fact that I'm black? I know that. My mother told me that a long time ago. Whatever they asked me, I tried not to take it personally. And what was getting them frustrated was they kept trying to find sore subjects with me and they couldn't. They did everything they could to make it seem like the pressure was on me, but it was really on the guy they were building up."

"Elway had to win, because they (the Broncos) lost the Super Bowl the previous year. But the reporters were trying to build the man up to be so laid back during the week. They wanted me to stroll into the press conferences wearing dark sunglasses and to say something that could be twisted around."

"That's why it was funny walking into the press conference the day after the Super Bowl. They (reporters) were sitting there in a state of shock. They acted like they wanted to give me a standing ovation after what they put me through."

Williams laughs at the thought. And the doorbell rings—again. It's another visitor, this one bearing gifts—a hug and some banana pudding for the boy next door.

For Doug Williams, it's all a matter of priorities. ■



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Missouri	ABCDEFGHJ	STUVWX
Montana	ABC FGH	T
Montana St.	ABC FG LMNO	
Navy	ABCDEFGH J LMNO	TUVWX
Nebraska	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOGRSTUVWX	
New Mexico	ABC FGH	T
N. Carolina	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPO	RSTUVWX
N. Carolina St.	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOGR TUVWX	
N. Dakota	ABC FGH	T
Northwestern	ABC FGHJ LMNO	STU
Notre Dame	ABCDE GHJ	R TUV
Ohio St.	ABCDEFGHJ LMNO	QRSTUVWX
Oklahoma	ABCDEFGHJ	RSTUVWX
Oklahoma St.	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOQ	STUVWX
Oregon	ABCDEFGHJ	RSTUV
Oregon St.	ABC FGHJKLMNPOGRSTU	
Penn St.	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOGRSTUVWX	
Pittsburgh	ABCDEFGH J	TUVWX
Princeton	ABC FGH J	T
Purdue	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPO	RSTUVWX
Rutgers	ABC GH LMNO	T
San Diego St.	ABCDEFGH JKL MNOPQ	STUV
Slippery Rock	ABC G LMNO	
S. Carolina	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOGRSTUVWX	
SMU	ABCDEFGHJ	P STUVWX
St. John's	ABCDEFGH I	S V
Stanford	ABCDEFGHJ	Q TUV
Syracuse	ABCDEFGHJ	TUVWX
Temple	ABC FGH	T
Tennessee	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOGRSTUVWX	
Texas	ABCDEFGHJ	QRSTUVWX
Texas A&M	ABCDEFGHJ	QRSTUVWX
TCU	ABCDEFGHJ	ST V
Texas Tech	ABCDEFGHJ	ST V
Tulane	ABC GHJ LMNO Q	T
UCLA	ABCDEFGHJ MNO	QRSTUV
UNLV	ABCDEFGH	STUVWX
USC	ABCDE GHJ LMNOP	RSTUV
Utah	ABCDEFGH J LMNO	T
Utah St.	ABC FGH JKL MNOPQ	T
Vanderbilt	ABCDEFGHJ LMNO	TUV
Villanova	ABCDEFGH J	TU WX
Virginia	ABCDEFGHJ	P RSTUV
Wake Forest	ABCDEFGHJ LMNOP	TUV
Washington	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOGRSTUVWX	
Washington St.	ABC FGHJKLMNPOGRSTUV	
West Virginia	ABCDEFGHJ	RSTUV
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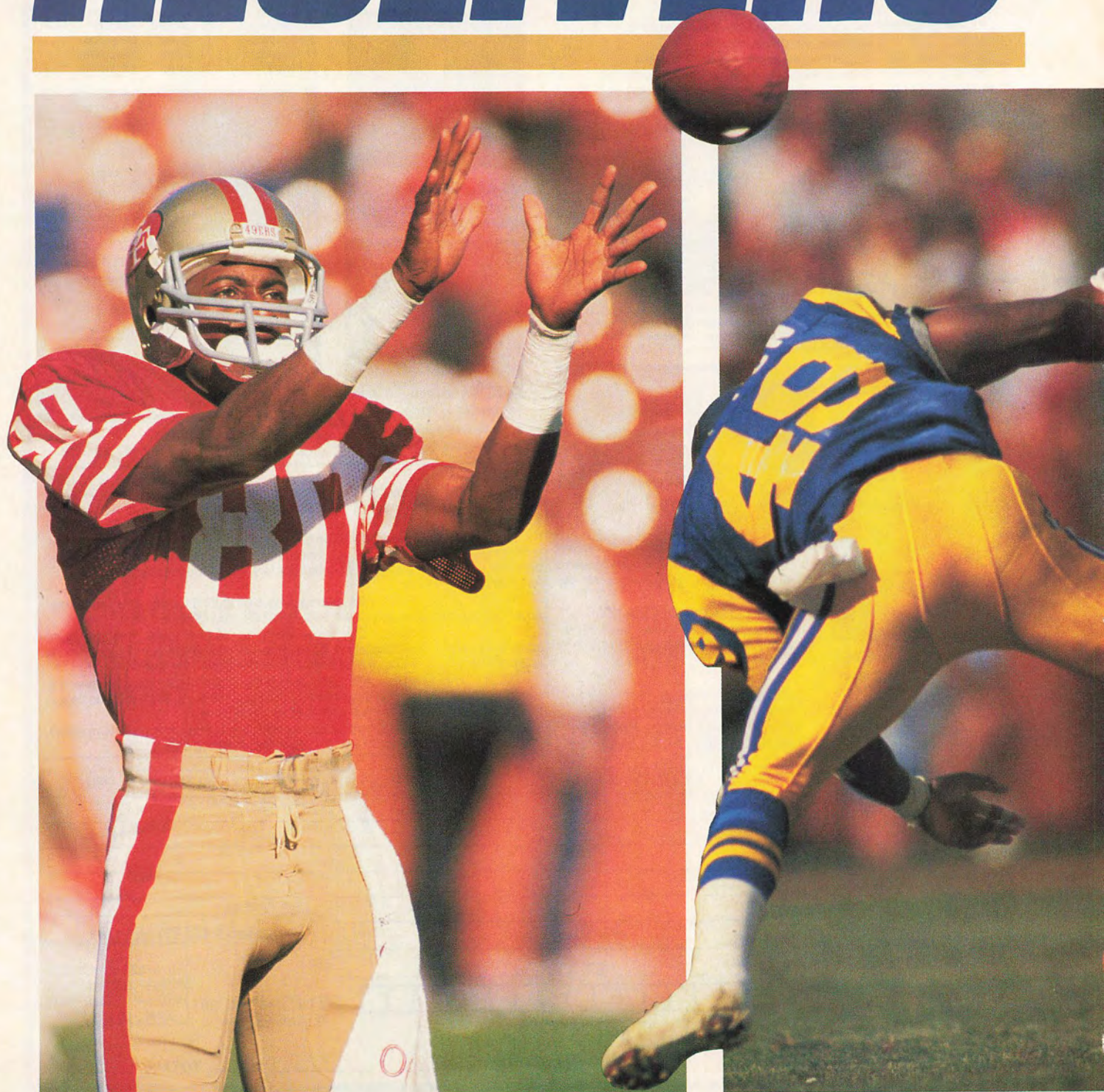
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T H E

RECEIVERS



Rice, Largent and Carter Perform With Breath-Catching Precision

By IRA MILLER
San Francisco Chronicle

It seems so simple, so natural—the act of catching a ball. Didn't we all do it as kids? Let's go deep. You throw, I'll catch. Ever notice how everybody always wants to play catch? No one ever wants to play throw.

The National Football League today is blessed with some wondrous catchers.

Maybe it's because the rules have made it

easier for them in recent years. They don't get bumped around as much and the style of the game has changed. It's more wide open. But would you doubt for a minute that Jerry Rice, Steve Largent or Anthony Carter could have played the game under any rules, in any system, at any time?

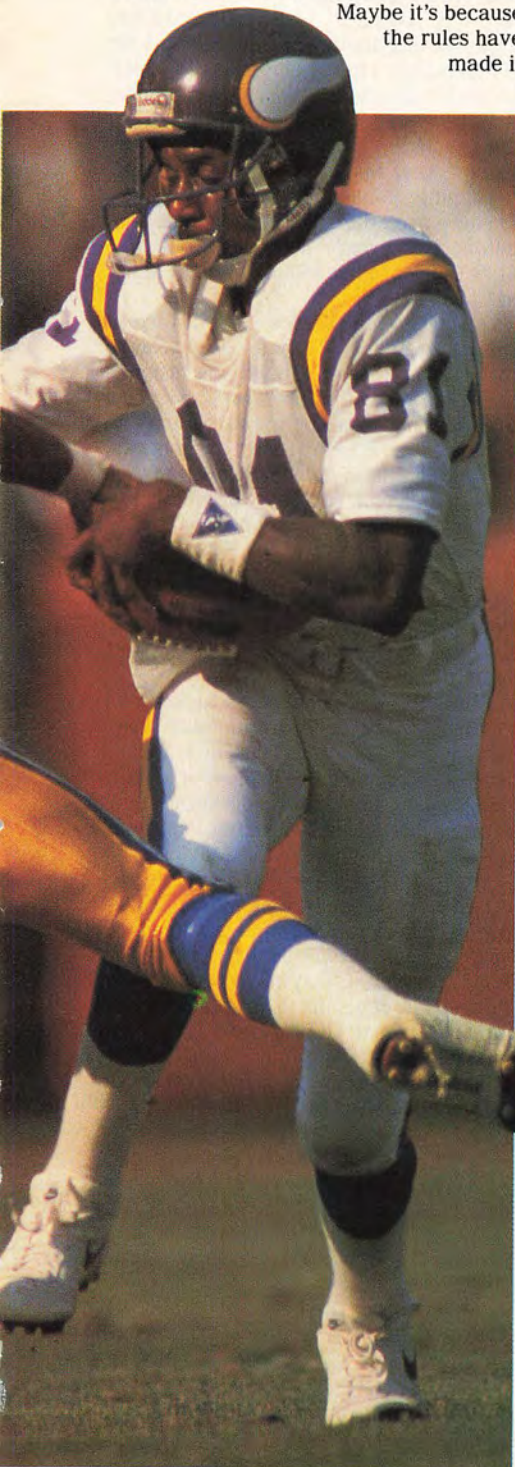
No doubt, they're the guys who used to say, "I'll go deep," as kids. "Probably, when they first began to play in the sandlots, they were natural, instinctive performers," said

Bill Walsh, Rice's San Francisco 49ers coach.

In a sense, it's a certain flair for showmanship. You still think there's nothing to this art of catching a ball?

Continued

The Producer, San Francisco's Jerry Rice (left), Mr. Consistent, Seattle's Steve Largent (right), and The Athlete, Minnesota's Anthony Carter, are football's super receivers.



THE RECEIVERS

"I'm sure people would say catching the football is easy, but it's different when you've got somebody like myself coming at you," says Ronnie Lott, the San Francisco free safety widely recognized as one of the game's hardest hitters and most aggressive players.

Those three—Rice, Seattle's Largent and Minnesota's Carter—are the best today. They're similar, yet they're not. They're from divergent backgrounds and they have different personalities and styles. Yet they are linked by the common threads of talent and purpose.

★ ★ ★

Rice is The Producer. His numbers almost defy belief. Last two years: 151 catches, 2,648 yards and 37 touchdowns. He has turned nearly 25 percent of his catches into scores, a remarkable ratio. Hall of Famer Don Hutson, who holds the current NFL record of 99 touchdown catches (over 11 years with Green Bay), scored once every 4.6 catches. Over the last two years, Rice has scored once every 4.1.

Rice now holds NFL records for touchdown catches in a season (he had 22 in 12 games last year) and for catching at least one touchdown pass in 13 consecutive regular-season games, a continuing streak that dates back to the last game of the 1986 season and does not include the 49ers' three strike games.

"You'd have to mention Rice in the same breath as a Michael Jordan," says Lott, referring to the National Basketball Association's premier acrobat and shot-maker. "Every time he touches the ball, he can go all the way, because he's playing so hard all the time."

Simply call Largent Mr. Consistent. The last time he played a regular-season game in which he did not catch a pass, Jimmy Carter was in his first year as President. He's been shut out only twice in his long NFL career. Largent has caught more passes than any other NFL player, ever, and soon will hold the record for yardage and touchdowns, too. Yet some people still stereotype him a slow, white receiver.

"There's great ability there that people tend to want to overlook," said Walsh. "They try to picture this man as one who just does it on sheer determination. . . . So often, it's 'functional' speed that is the difference. When Jerry Rice was drafted, there were many people in the NFL who felt he wasn't going to be fast enough because of some kind of theoretical equation on his 40 time, which was absurd."

"Largent, when he needs speed, on the kind of patterns he catches, he has excellent quickness and speed for those kind of patterns. He has all the speed he needs."

"He is a more gifted receiver physically than people give him credit for," adds Seattle Coach Chuck Knox. "He's not an over-achiever. He has unique talent to be a great receiver. He has the lateral quickness, he has great balance, body control, tremendous hand/eye coordination and

great hands."

And then there is Carter. Everyone agrees that he is The Athlete. He's a one-man highlight film. He doesn't have Rice's numbers or Largent's streak, but that may be a product of his team and his youth, as much as anything. There may not be a more athletically gifted receiver in the game today. Just when you think you have him covered . . . boom. He proved that in the playoffs last year, where he made three catches against the 49ers that were true highlight-film material. All came on plays when San Francisco's secondary thought it had him well-covered.

"Carter is more capable of making the big, single play, regardless of who is throwing the ball," Walsh said. "He has great leaping ability and coordination. He is making the kind of plays that John Jefferson used to make, one where you're basically covered, but you can go up and get the ball, being more nimble than the defender. That takes great body coordination, agility, concentration."

There are other receivers just a shade behind this group. Two close calls are Mike Quick of Philadelphia and J.T. Smith of Phoenix.

Quick resembles Rice—he's always a threat to score. He has caught more touchdown passes (53) over the last five years than any other player in the league, and over the same period ranks third in yardage (5,437) behind only Largent and James Lofton. He compared favorably on the Rice/Hutson scale last year by scoring once every 4.2 receptions.

"People expect it of me," says Quick, never one to shy away. "It's like 'Mike Quick caught five balls, scored two touchdowns, but that's what he's supposed to do.' But that's what I expect of myself, too."

Put Smith in the Largent category for consistency, although his star didn't rise until he had passed his 30th birthday and had kicked around the league for a number of years. In the last two seasons, however, he has caught 171 passes, more than anyone else in the NFL, for 2,131 yards.

Smith is not as well known as the others. Last year, he became the first player in nearly 20 years to lead the NFL in receptions, yet not be voted to the Pro Bowl. The voting may have been a reaction to his decision to play during the strike (Largent played, also). Yet, even without the strike games, Smith caught more passes than any other player in the league and called the Pro Bowl voting "a joke."

★ ★ ★

So what is it that makes a great receiver?

Sid Gillman, a consultant with the Kansas City Chiefs who has seen them all, has some ideas on the subject.

No. 1 is hands. He agrees with Lott that you have to be able to catch the ball.



Fellow 49er receiver Dwight Clark congratulates Jerry Rice after a San Francisco touchdown pass.



The athletically gifted Anthony Carter runs away from the 49er defense after a reception in a 1987 playoff game.

Moves are terrific. Speed is wonderful. But what does it mean if you can't catch?

"It's like a quarterback," Gillman said. "If he doesn't have an arm, he can't throw. If a guy can't catch the ball, he can't play end. Period. He's got to be able to catch."

"I've seen a lot of great receivers who are slow, not fast, but they catch the football," Lott said. "And I've seen a lot of receivers who have potential, but they can't make the catch, can't make the difficult catch. That's the one thing you've got to do, and got to do it better than anybody else."

This is where Rice excels. Or, one of the places he excels.

Rice's father, Joe, is a bricklayer. When Jerry was growing up in Starkville, Miss., he used to help him during the summer. "For Mississippi and for a kid, it was a pretty good job," Rice said. "Paid \$300 a week, and all I had to do was catch the bricks as they were thrown to me."

It helps to have good hands.

"If I wasn't playing football, I'd be doing something with my hands," Rice said. "Electronics, or maybe something with cars. It doesn't matter. I've always liked working with my hands."

Next, says Gillman, is the ability to change direction.

"If you can't change direction, it's hard to get away, and that makes it harder to play," he said.

Walsh calls it a "basic instinct" for a receiver to know what's going on around him so that he can find the open spot. It's not that dissimilar from a baseball hitter with good bat control being adept at placing the ball where the fielders aren't. "Non-verbal communication," Walsh says.

This is where Largent excels.

"Largent is in a class by himself as a 'move' man, a guy who can change direction, turn you upside down and every which way," said Gillman. The Hall of Fame coach compares Largent to a Hall of Fame receiver, Raymond Berry, the present coach at New England, for his "ability to stop on a dime, turn around, move, stop and go."

Lott says Largent is the best there is at "setting up" a defender for a later play.

"He's always thinking ahead, even though it might not seem that way to you when you cover him," Lott said. "He might run a certain pattern and you cover him, and you might think that you're doing your job—but basically, he's setting you up for the next play."

"If it's a running play, and you play bump and run, he might give you a certain release. If he's able to get away from

you, he might try that again. If not, he'll come back with something else. Also, you might see him trot off and it's a run, but then you might see him give you that same release, he jogs off—and then he'll break into a pattern. Steve has a good feel for the game."

Lott says that Largent has another unique ability, too—to get away from a defender at exactly the right moment. "He has that ability to get away right at the moment when the quarterback releases the ball," Lott said. "A lot of receivers can get away from you, but they get away at the wrong times. He gets away at just the right time."

"I call him the Albert Einstein of pass receivers because he's always coming up with some kind of new space-age route I've never seen before," said Lester Hayes, a veteran of the Los Angeles Raiders' secondary.

And third on Gillman's list of attributes is speed. This is where Carter comes in. Rice is fast, too, but it's Carter's speed, his nimbleness, that defines his greatness. There are many who believe that Carter, in the right situation, could equal Rice's numbers. Carter is one of them. Right situation refers to a coach who understands

Continued

THE RECEIVERS

the passing game and the care and feeding of its players. A coach like Walsh, for example.

When the Vikings weren't throwing him the ball last year, Carter asked, "Why did they trade for me?" Later, he said, speaking of Rice's statistics, "If I was in that same offense, and he was somewhere else, maybe I would be doing the same thing he's doing in San Francisco."

"They're almost two of a kind," says Gillman, referring to Rice and Carter. "Rice, it's so important that he plays for Bill Walsh, because the passing concepts of Walsh are . . . so far ahead."

"The Vikings didn't amount to a damn thing until the playoffs. Why the Vikings didn't throw to Carter, I don't know."

"Carter is a franchise. I don't know who it was, but someone made the statement up there that what difference does it make if he catches one ball for 60 yards or six balls for 60 yards or 10 balls for 60 yards? It makes a hell of a lot of difference, because any one of those 10 balls, he can go the distance. That's kind of a ridiculous statement."

"You want to get him the ball. The key

to the whole game is to get the ball to the game-breaker as much as he can get it. You don't want to give it to somebody who can't make a move."

Yet, for most of last season, that's exactly what the Vikings did—fail to get the ball to the game-breaker. In the playoffs, the Vikings took off because they began getting Carter the ball. You have to presume that Minnesota will make a major effort in 1988 to use their valuable weapon.

"Well, listen, if they don't, they're crazy," Gillman said.

Lott agrees. He found out first-hand in the playoff game that things may not be what they appear when you think you've got Carter covered.

"The one thing that I've always thought as a defensive back is that you can't stop the perfect play," Lott said. "Well, Anthony Carter adds another dimension to it. Not only can you not stop the perfect play, you can't stop the great athlete. When you have a guy like that, who can go up and out-leap you, or out-jump you and be aggressive. . . ."

"For every three times that you throw to him, two of those times he's going to make



something happen. He's either going to make a guy miss (a tackle) or he's going to come up with the big catch. It's sad sometimes that you don't see certain guys able to use their ability. I'm sure from now on, they're going to try to get it to him."

That's never been a problem in Seattle. Even with a coach as conservative as Knox, the Seahawks get the ball to Largent. Largent expects 1988 to be his final season and, when he leaves with the all-time records for catches, yardage and touchdowns, you could surely sustain an argument that he's the best receiver in football history.

"As a measure of a career, they're the most significant (records)," Largent said. "They may not mean you're the greatest receiver of all time. That's subjective. You can ask 10 people and get 10 different answers. But if you look in the record books and say, 'Who was the most productive receiver in NFL history?' then you look at career receptions (752), career yardage (12,041, or 105 less than Joiner) and, I think, career touchdowns (95, four behind Hutson)."

"Every time I play him, he pulls a new trick out of his bag," said Albert Lewis, a Kansas City cornerback. "There are receivers on every team that can embarrass you, but Largent has a tendency of doing it in a way that is more appealing to the eye. Some guys can run by you like you're standing still. Some guys can fake you out of your jock. But when Largent embarrasses you, he makes you feel silly. He'll get you to buy a fake, and you'll be headed in the opposite direction he is. Afterward, you say to yourself, 'I can't believe I did that.'"

The game's three top receivers have a common thread beyond talent and purpose. It took some work—and some luck—to get them with the right teams.

It's something short of amazing that the 49ers got Rice as easily as they did. Just a couple of days before the 1985 draft, Walsh still was dithering among receivers and talking about both Rice and Chris Burkett, who wound up in Buffalo. But the more film Walsh watched, the more Rice impressed with his acceleration, an extra gear that seemed to leave other players standing around. So Walsh went to work on a deal and found a willing trading partner in New England.

"All the scouts were high on him," said Dallas Vice President of Personnel Development Gil Brandt. "But he was coming from Mississippi Valley and everyone got scared."

Not the 49ers. Coming off a Super Bowl victory, San Francisco was scheduled to draft 28th. But the Patriots graciously dealt their 16th position to the 49ers. Assistant coach Paul Hackett, who worked with the 49ers' passing game, walked around the rest of the day with a silly grin on his face.

Largent originally was drafted (fourth round) by Houston, not Seattle. The Oilers watched him in his rookie training camp, decided he was too slow and dealt him to the first-year expansion Seahawks for an



The general rule of thumb is that Seattle record-setter Steve Largent will catch anything he gets his hands on.

eighth-round draft choice.

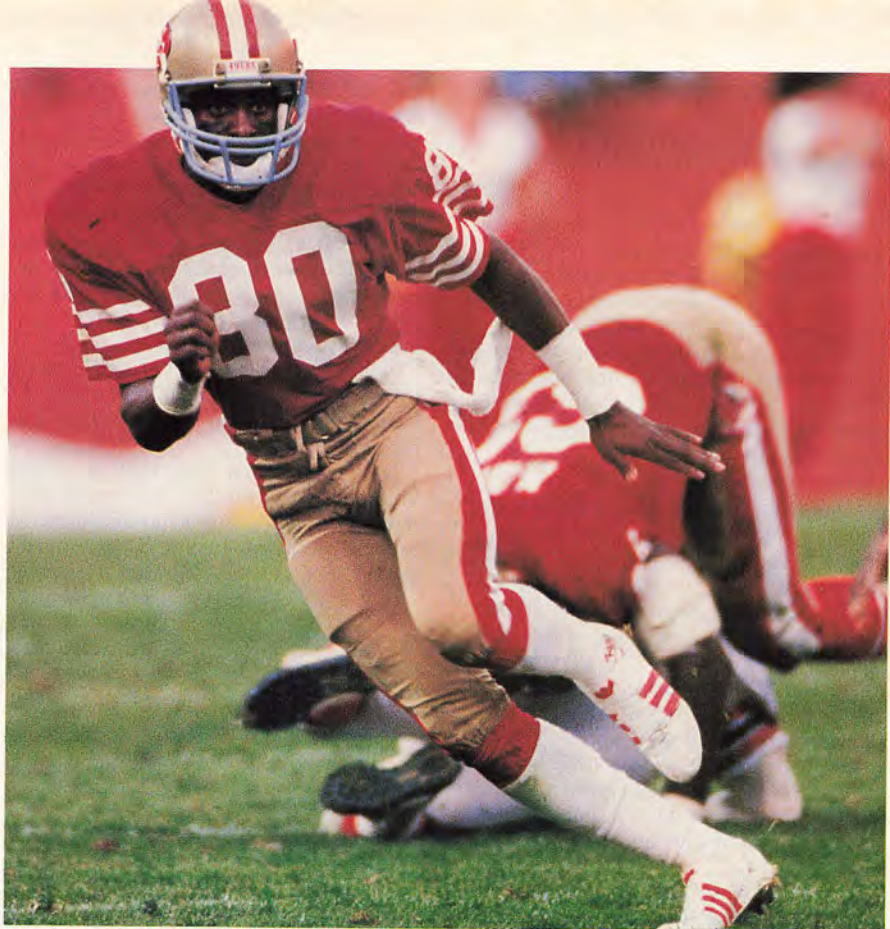
"When I came into the league, this is what everybody looked for—the 6-foot-4, long-legged strider, a fast guy to throw the 50-yard bomb to," said Largent, who's 5-11. "They had Ken Burrough, and that's the kind of player they wanted."

"People said he was too slow, too small," says Deron Cherry, the Kansas City safety with a portfolio of Pro Bowl appearances. "But Largent has exceptional hands and great concentration. Any time the ball is close by, you know he's in a position where he's going to catch it. The key is to get it before he does. If he gets his hands on the ball, nine times out of 10 he's going to catch it."

Carter played first in the United States Football League, with his NFL rights belonging to Miami. The Dolphins, however, were well stocked with receivers Mark Clayton and Mark Duper. When the USFL went under, Minnesota General Manager Mike Lynn was looking to add a top receiver to his team, though Carter was not the man he had in mind.

"I was pushing for Eddie Brown (in the draft)," Lynn recalled. "The personnel people wanted to take Chris Doleman. There were about seven people in the room. I said, 'Let's have a secret ballot, your decision alone, you can't talk with anybody or consult with anybody.'"

Lynn promised to abide by the decision. Everybody else in the room voted for



Once San Francisco receiver Jerry Rice catches the ball, defensive backs must beware of his explosive speed.

Continued

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THE RECEIVERS

Doleman. Lynn voted for Eddie Brown. The Vikings drafted Doleman, but Lynn continued his search for a receiver. When he called Miami Coach Don Shula to work out a trade for Carter's NFL rights, he discovered Shula already had been dickering with Detroit, the Vikings' division rival. The Lions already had gone so far as to start negotiating a contract with Carter's agent when Lynn called.

★ ★ ★

It didn't take Walsh long to begin gearing the offense in Rice's direction. That's where Walsh always has been ahead of most of his rivals. He lines Rice up in different areas—maybe eight to 10 different positions in an average game—and finds ways to get him free.

But Rice, as many recall, was not an instant hit with San Francisco. He dropped about a pass a game through much of his rookie season. Rice blamed that on the difficulty of trying to learn Walsh's complex maze of pass plays, saying that discombobulated his concentration.

Finally, he broke out in a Monday night game against the Rams near the end of the season. In that game, Rice gained 241 yards on 10 receptions and made himself an instant star. There have not been many dropped passes or other problems since.

About the only negative has been Rice's disappearing act in the 49ers' three playoff games, all of which were one-sided defeats. He has yet to score a postseason touchdown. After last year's shocking elimination by Minnesota, Rice said that he had practiced too hard and was worn out by game time.

Rice's playoff record has been strange, considering what he accomplished during the season. And remarkably, his accomplishments have come without benefit of steady quarterbacking, something that amazes Walsh. The coach believes strongly that a good relationship between quarterback and receiver is essential to any receiver's success, and he points to the days when Joe Montana used to throw to Dwight Clark. Yet Rice had to play half of 1986 with first Jeff Kemp, then Mike Moroski replacing Montana, who was recuperating from back surgery. Then Steve Young played several games in 1987 when Montana was hurt.

Gillman compares Rice to Lance Alworth, Bambi of Hall of Fame fame, for his combination of speed, hands and change of direction.

"I knew right after that first training camp that Jerry had the ability to be the best to play the game," Lott said. "I've seen a lot of great receivers in the Pro Bowl (Lott has been in it six times). I've played against great ones, and I just thought that Jerry had all the skills."

"He had the Paul Warfield grace, the Charley Taylor determination, the hands of (Fred) Biletnikoff, where he doesn't

drop a lot of passes. Then he had the Dwight Clark hard work attitude. I just knew right away some good things were going to happen. I just didn't expect so many good things."

"I really want to be the all-time best receiver ever to play in the NFL," Rice says. "It's a hard road, but if I keep my mind right and work hard, I think it's going to fall into place for me. It's just a matter of time, and I enjoy what I do."

All-time greatness is, of course, defined by more than productivity; Rice has to do it for more than the two years he has been on top.

It's Rice's extra gear that separates him from many other receivers and, more importantly, separates him from defensive backs on the field. He doesn't usually look that fast. He runs with ease,

seems to be floating along, when, suddenly, he kicks in the after-burners—and



it's goodbye.

Rice gave Green Bay defensive backs a dose of that in a late-season 1987 game. The Packers had remained threateningly close to the lethargic 49ers through the middle of the fourth quarter. Then, even though he was double-covered, Rice got between two defenders, caught a short slant pass from Montana and left both Packers in his wake. Touchdown!

The style is distinctive. There have been receivers who could run past defenders with straight-out speed, but rarely one who works in overdrive. It's his trademark.

"I'm not like Anthony Carter," Rice said. "I like to run short patterns and then break away." (Says Carter: "He does catch those four or five passes, which he turns into big gains. I end up catching a deep post pattern or deep fly pattern for the big play. People say we don't have the speed, but I think once the ball is in the air, we both have tremendous speed as far as going and getting the ball.")

The question is where it comes from, and Rice answers: "I don't really know where the extra speed comes from that makes me do it. Watching myself (in films), I keep surprising myself."

Rice does have one idea, though—his 6-2 frame. He thinks that defensive backs are used to dealing with smaller men, that many backs are a little shorter themselves and that they take shorter steps than he does.

"I come along, taking long steps, and it fools them," he said. "They think they have good position on me, the same position they'd have on a shorter guy, but suddenly I'm pulling away."

Hey, it's as good an explanation as any-

Continued

Anthony Carter, the Vikings' secret weapon, has the special gift of being able to make big plays when his team needs them the most.

Uh, oh...
here comes big shot
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between 43-48.
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to my wide receiver
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THE RECEIVERS

thing else.

Dennis Green, the 49ers' receivers coach, joked that the team wasn't able to use its goal-line offense much last season because Rice scored so many long-distance touchdowns. Then again, maybe Rice was the goal-line offense. It's just that the 49ers used it from the 50 instead of from the 5.

Rice is the flashiest of the three top receivers, a fashionable dresser who arrived in San Francisco with the nickname "World" (as in all-world catches) and since has taken on the nickname "Flash 80," which refers to his uniform number. Largent is a low-key family man who moves back to Tulsa, Okla., during the off-season. Carter is similar; he's so quiet away from the field that one of his nicknames is "Hermit." He got along so well with Bo Schembechler at Michigan that he was nicknamed, "Little Shemmy."

Says Carter: "It was just the way I carried myself. If your head's screwed on right, he likes you. I don't take my head off and put it on a shelf at night like some people."

Based on the last two years, Rice is the best of the three. But even his own coach, Walsh, agrees life is much easier for the current crop of receivers than for those who came ahead of them.

"There was a period of time, let's just cover the decade of the '70s and maybe even prior to that, when the receiver had an especially difficult time of maneuvering," Walsh said. "It started with bump-and-run, and the Raiders were a good example of it. Receivers were just shattered at the line of scrimmage.

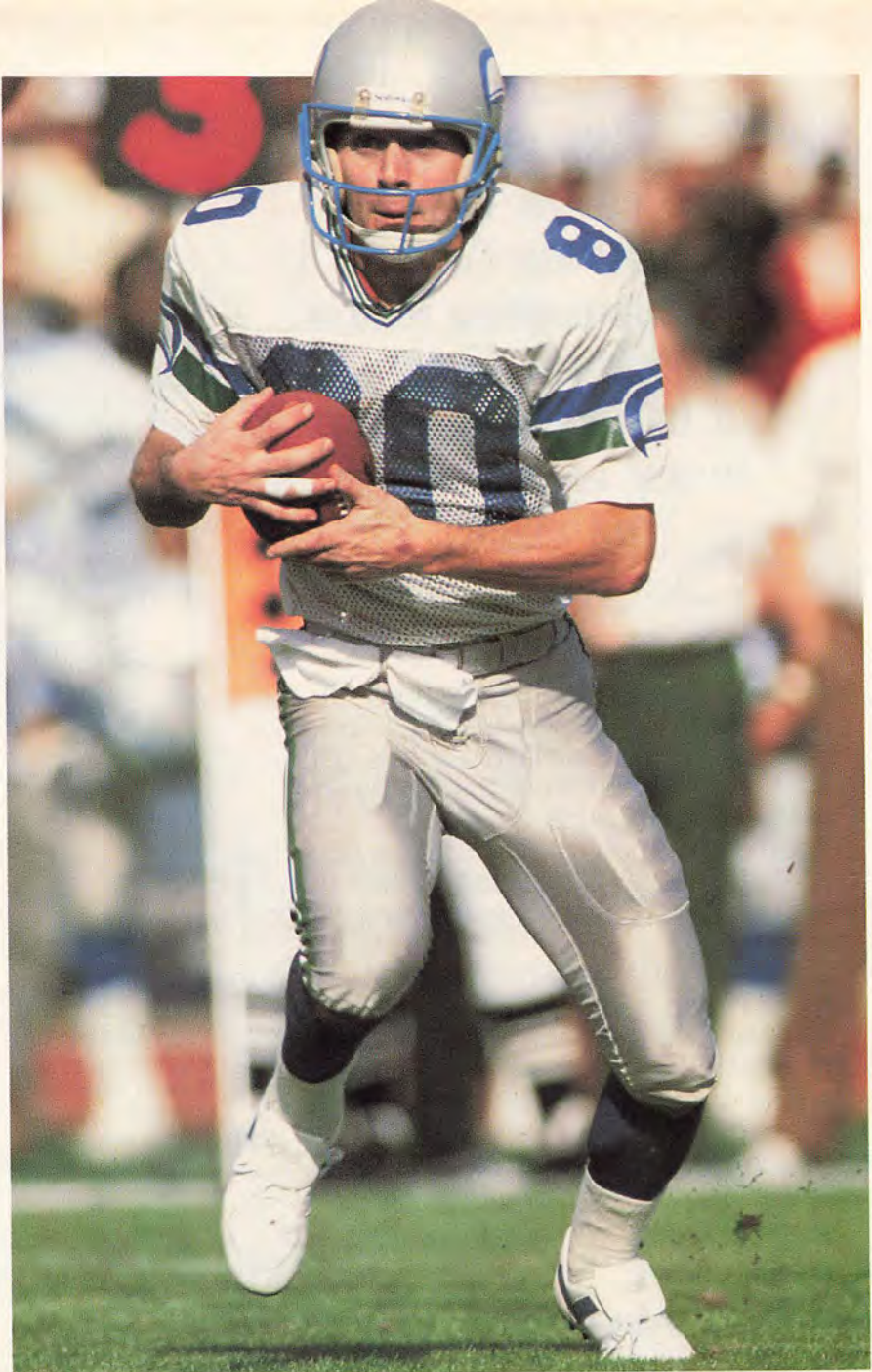
"From there, it went to double-rotation defenses, which Pittsburgh and Miami did so well. The corners were big men who would really attack a receiver coming off the line, knock him down, cut him, do whatever he wanted, and not even have to cover him, because there was (someone to help) behind him.

"Now, the rule changes have given receivers more latitude. On the other hand, defensive backs now are quicker and there are so many more coverages now that a receiver really needs experience to deal with all the coverages."

Gillman doesn't hedge at all about the difference in eras.

"Oh, my God, you put Lance Alworth in with today's rules, and he'd have a field day," Gillman said. "We had to have a bump-and-run-plan. If we were playing Al Davis, for example, we wouldn't go into our normal passing game. We'd have to take every route we had and adjust it to a bump-and-run plan, where they're knocking the crap out of you all the way down the field.

"Now, you can't touch 'em within five yards. You can't even give 'em a dirty look. It's much easier to play (receiver) today than it was. But these three guys



The Seahawks' Steve Largent already holds the NFL record for career receptions and soon will hold the records for yardage and touchdowns, too.

are so good, I don't give a damn what the rule is. They can play."

Gillman says there's another area that makes the game different today for receivers, and you never even hear anyone talk about it. It's the standardization of the field.

It used to be that not all NFL teams would mark their fields the same way. Oh, sure, the hash marks had to be in a specific place, but on some fields, the yard-line numbers might be larger or smaller or closer to the sideline or closer to the middle of the field. Gillman then and Walsh now run such precise passing games that these little things make a difference because players use them as marks on the field.

"Hell, I used to take Lance by the hand, and we'd go to the sideline, and we'd step

off where the outside of the number was, because every stadium we played in had a different number area," Gillman recalled.

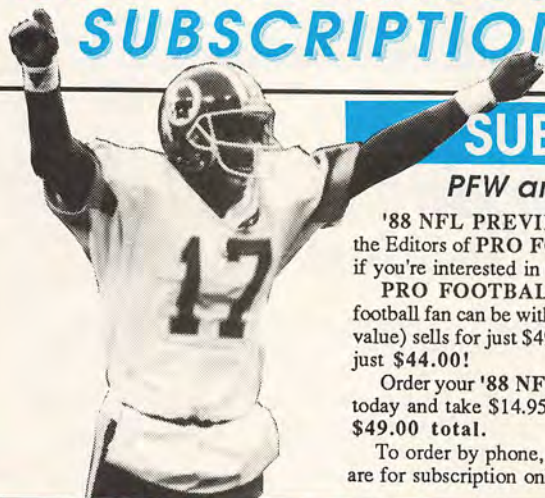
The stadiums are uniform now, but the game's three best receivers aren't. Ok, Mr. Defensive Back, would you rather be burned by Rice's overdrive, by Largent's consistency or by Carter's acrobatics?

"All three of them you would want to cover only in certain situations," Lott said. "I'd hate to cover Largent in a third-and-five situation. I'd hate to cover Jerry when they can go for broke, when they don't have any (pass rush) pressure on them. And I'd hate to cover Anthony in the situation where he knows he has to make the big play.

"All three of those guys, in certain aspects of their game, are almost impossible to cover." ■

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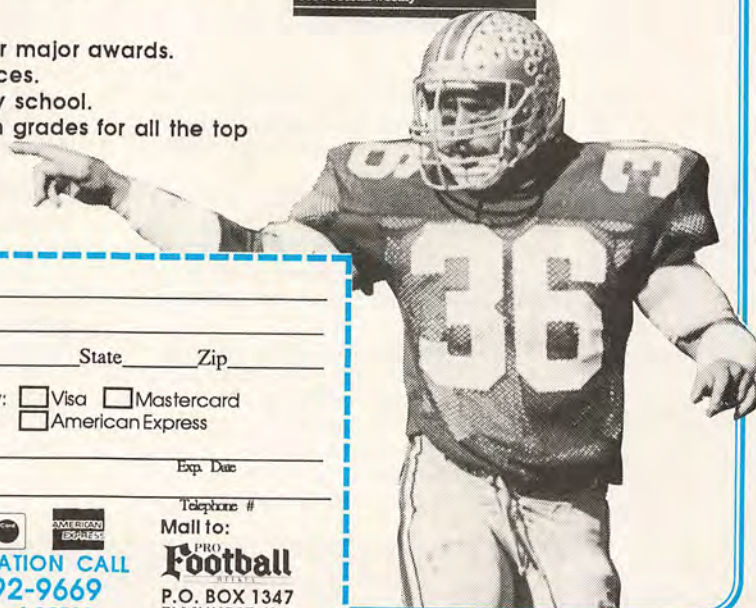
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A GIANT STEP FORWARD

New York Linebacker Carl Banks Is Emerging From Taylor's Big Shadow

By VINNY DiTRANI
Bergen (N.J.) Record

The New York Giants had just beaten Philadelphia in one of their better defensive efforts of a disappointing season, giving Coach Bill Parcells an excuse to discuss one of his favorite subjects.

"That Lawrence Taylor is some kind of football player," Parcells said in praise of his All-Universe linebacker who had four tackles, two sacks and 13 quarterback pressures in his first full game back from a hamstring injury. "He had another tremendous game."

"How about Carl Banks?" somebody asked, referring to *another* Giants linebacker who had nine solo tackles, 2½ sacks and three pressures in the same game.

"Oh, Carl broke his nose," Parcells replied.

"Shrug," said Carl Banks' 6-foot-4, 235-pound body when told about Parcells' unorthodox answer. He had learned long ago the intricacies of Parcells' psychological games.

The coach has his pecking, or rather his "pelting," order. And Taylor already has a huge collection of Parcells' mythical "pelts." Banks is just beginning to accumulate what promises to be an impressive collection of his own.

So Taylor gets Parcells' praise while Banks awaits his turn—not necessarily with great anguish or concern.

"It really doesn't bother me," said the former Michigan State All-America, who can dominate a game in his own way. "If I had an ego, maybe it would affect me.

Sure you like to receive compliments, but I can live without them, as long as I know I'm doing my best on the field.

"In fact I kind of like it the way it is, where I'm not the most celebrated player around and I can just go out and do my job every week. All I want to do is help the team win. I'm not interested in all the hype. I'm only responsible for Carl Banks, not for anything else."

Living in Taylor's mammoth shadow has programmed Banks to accept his fleeting moments of limelight. That's why he was not at all bitter after the Giants' Super Bowl XXI victory in Pasadena, when his 10-tackle game failed to get him one vote as the game's Most Valuable Player.

That just happened to be the day that quarterback Phil Simms went on a record passing binge. On any other Roman-numeraled Sunday, Banks could have driven off with a new car and instant immortality.

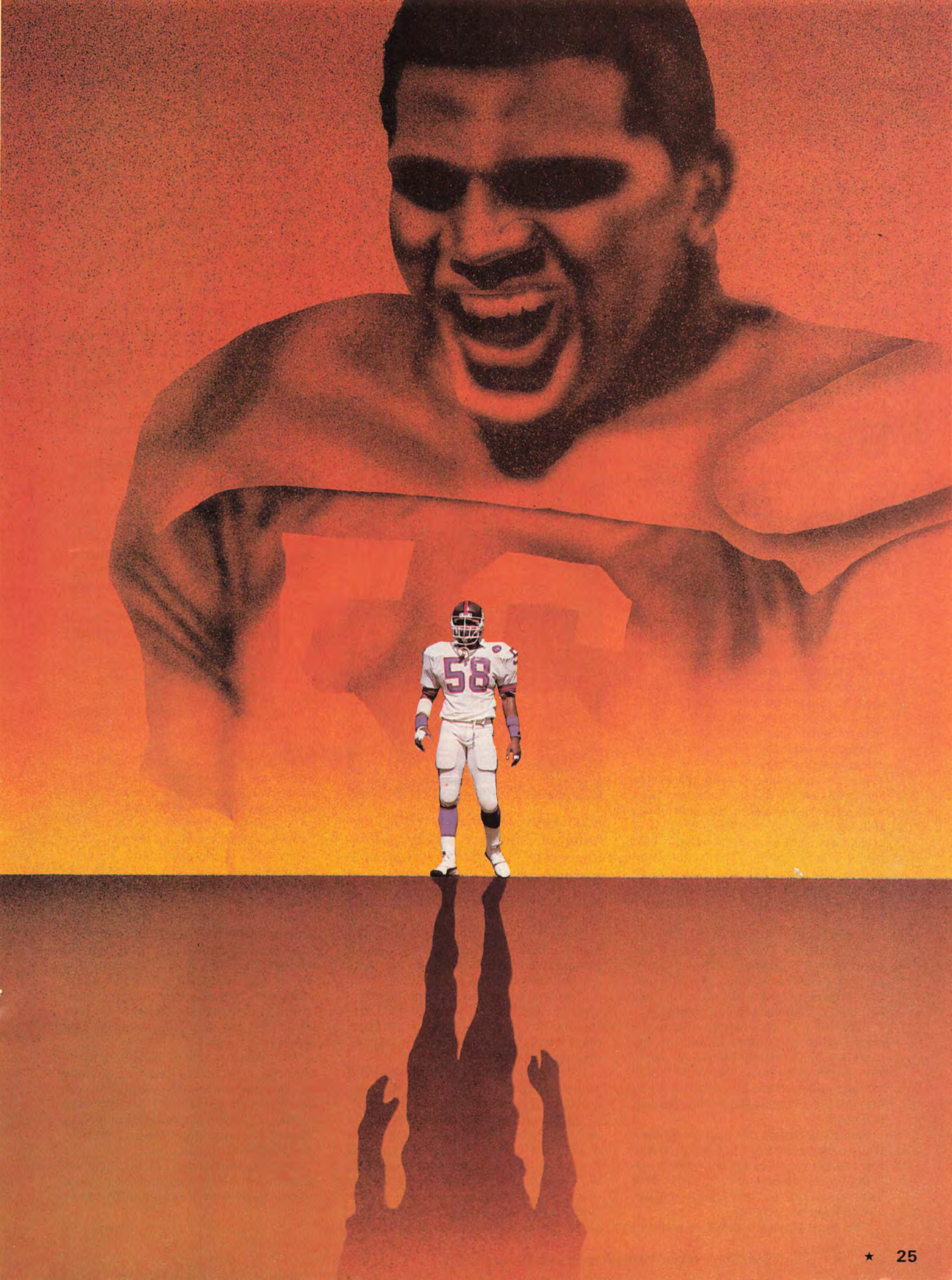
And he says he wasn't upset when no other National Football League team bothered to take advantage of his free-agent status by presenting him an offer sheet like the six-year, \$6 million one that Washington used to lure Wilber Marshall away from the Chicago Bears.

"I can't control what the owners are going to do, so I don't worry about it," he said after the April 15 deadline had passed without an offer.

But there are signs that things are beginning to change for the Flint, Mich., native.

When the NFC announced its Pro Bowl

Continued



A GIANT STEP FORWARD

team last December, Taylor was seated at his locker, fiddling with a pitching wedge and going over his upcoming golf itinerary with quarterback Jeff Rutledge. He had just been named to his seventh consecutive Pro Bowl, his first as a non-starter. Ho-hum!

Banks, however, was at his locker, surrounded by media-types. He had just made his first Pro Bowl, and was named a starter over his teammate, who had missed some playing time with the first major injury of his career.

"Carl's a hero now, you know it," defensive line coach Lamar Leachman said as he walked by the impromptu press conference. Banks pretended not to hear as he answered questions.

"This puts me in the class with the best in the league," he said, "but this doesn't mean I can stop working. All it means is I was voted one of the top linebackers in the NFC this year. That's all it means—this year. I've still got to work harder next year."

Banks may soon become a household name, thanks to the first major endorsement contract he has ever received. His face, with nose in proper alignment, already has begun showing up on the back of Coca-Cola trucks and on the soft drink giant's billboards around the country.

Banks also will be coming out with a book, not the tell-all sensational read that can cause locker-room friction, but a workout guide that mirrors the low-key, lunch-pail image Parcells encourages by withholding his praise.

The coach's humility approach probably is wasted on Banks. Dedication and work ethic have been a big part of his daily diet since the days when he romped around his Flint neighborhood with best friend Lonnie Young. That's the same Lonnie Young who followed Banks first to Michigan State and then to the NFL. He's currently a free safety for the Phoenix Cardinals.

Banks could walk out of his parents' home on O'Toole Avenue, make a right at the corner of Flamingo Drive and arrive at Young's home in about two minutes. That might be the shortest walk from one NFL player's family home to another's.

Banks and Young grew up around the corner from each other in the middle-class Beecher section of Flint. As a youngster, Banks often made the quick trip to Young's house, where Lonnie's father had erected the neighborhood's lone basketball hoop.

Banks still makes that short trek when the two men return to Flint in the off-season and get together for one-on-one basketball, video games, bowling, pool and to listen to jazz music. Their relationship has always been competitive.

"We were playing a game of pool this



While the eyes of New York have followed Lawrence Taylor, fellow linebacker Carl Banks has quietly carved his niche.

past summer, and, well ask him about it," said Banks.

"I was beating him, I mean beating him badly," recalled Young. "And he started changing the rules on me. So I got mad and quit the game."

"Leave it to Lonnie to switch the story around," Banks said with a laugh. "I was the one who was hot. I couldn't miss. I made every shot. Finally, he just dropped his stick and walked out."

Despite the occasional flare-ups, the Banks-Young friendship is one that has grown stronger as the years have passed.

"Carl and I have had a lot of fun together," said Young. "But we've also been able to help one another during our careers. I've helped him with his running and conditioning; he's helped me in the weight room. We still talk by telephone almost every night, and not just about football; about life in general. And we're able to

criticize each other, and we sometimes do that very, very heavily."

"We discuss a lot of things, including going over the old times in high school and elementary school," Banks said. "We were always the dogs of our teams in those days."

The two met when Young was in the third grade and Banks' family moved into the neighborhood. Though Young was a year younger, the two found a common bond in their love for sports.

"We weren't the best two athletes in the neighborhood," Banks said. "In fact, we often were the last two guys picked for sandlot games. I wasn't real big. I didn't shoot up until high school. And Lonnie always was very skinny."

"But we both had that extra drive and motivation. I think that's the thing that drew us together," said Young. "There were a lot of other guys in the neighborhood who people talked about all the time as far as athletics were concerned. But as the years passed, Carl and I became more and more productive."

Once Banks began to mature physically, there was no doubt about the neighborhood's No. 1 draw.

"Everyone used to go down to the playground to watch Carl play basketball. He was just awesome," said Giants wide receiver Mark Ingram, yet another professional athlete from that same Flint neighborhood that took the Michigan State-NFL route.

Though basketball was his first love, it soon became apparent that football would pay his bills. A two-way tackle in high school simply because he was bigger than everybody else, Banks was given the choice of playing tight end or linebacker at Michigan State. Because of his aggressive on-the-field nature, Banks decided to go on the defensive.

He started gaining all-Big 10 raves as a sophomore and had reached All-America status by his senior year. He also was a guaranteed high NFL draft pick.

The Giants, coming off a 3-12-1 mark in Parcells' first season as head coach, owned the third selection in the 1984 draft and wasted no time selecting Banks, despite their already-imposing corps of linebackers.

"He was the best player available to us, and you have to take a guy like that when he's sitting there," said Giants General Manager George Young. The selection did not pay immediate dividends. Banks struggled through an injury-plagued rookie season and shared time with veterans Byron Hunt and Andy Headen for the next two years.

Yet it was as a rookie that Banks made two great plays that helped his team take a Giant step forward. The Giants had split their first six games of 1984, but were coming off embarrassing losses to the Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers as they headed for Atlanta.

Early in the game, Falcons quarterback Steve Bartkowski hooked up with Stacey Bailey for a long gainer to the

Continued

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GIANT^A STEP FORWARD

Giants' 1-yard line. An early Atlanta score could have been disastrous for the morale of both the team and its head coach. But the Giants stiffened and the less-than-nimble Bartkowski tried to cross them up by rolling to his right on fourth down.

Banks, however, knifed in from his linebacker spot and nailed the quarterback for a three-yard loss. Minutes later, after the Giants had punted to midfield, Banks came up with a Lynn Cain fumble. The Giants subsequently marched to a field goal, a 19-7 victory, a 9-7 record and the first of three consecutive playoff appearances that culminated with their 1987 Super Bowl victory.

Ironically, it also was Banks who made the big third-down play in the critical goal-line stand that turned around the Giants' 39-20 Super Bowl victory over the Denver Broncos. Yet big plays are not his forte. He usually leaves those to Taylor and handles the thousands of little plays that, when tallied, result in a Pro-Bowl season.

His 1987 season added up to a team-high 113 tackles, including nine sacks for 70 yards in losses and 16½ other tackles at or behind the line of scrimmage for another 50½ yards in opponent deficits. He was second to Taylor both in sacks and quarterback pressures with 50, but led Giant linebackers in passes defended with eight.

"And he did all that playing on a knee that bothered him all season," said defensive coordinator Bill Belichick, referring to a sprain Banks suffered in the opening-night loss to the Bears. "It's scary to think what he would have done if he was totally healthy."

Banks also had his first career interception against New England, killing a Patriot drive at the Giant 15 in a 17-10 New York victory.

"That was Carl's best play of the year," Belichick said of the interception. "He jammed the tight end (Lin Dawson), then followed him across the field. The ball was thrown low and a little bit behind him. It was an awkward catching position but Carl made the play, and it was a big one, too."

"Carl can do a lot of the things L.T. does, but we simply don't ask him to do those things. He has his tasks and he does them very well. Sometimes they don't receive the notice a big sack or a pass rush might draw. But they certainly are important to our defensive scheme."

Banks was asked to do a few more Tayloresque things last season when L.T. suffered a hamstring pull that kept him on the sideline for a game (the first he'd

missed since high school) and slowed him for two others. That's why his sack and quarterback pressure totals reached new highs. But it still was his performance against the run and the general havoc he wreaked on opposing tight ends that earned Banks his first trip to Hawaii.

"It was a super feeling knowing I was out there among the best pro football has to offer," said Banks, who was credited with eight tackles in the Pro Bowl. "But I felt like a rookie again. Luckily I had a chance to talk with guys like L.T. and Harry (Carson), guys who had been there before, and they told me what to expect. But before the game I had butterflies, the works."

Playing in the Pro Bowl is one thing; getting there is another. And while Banks has made a lasting impression on all of the Giants' NFC opponents, none respect him more than the defending Super Bowl-champion Washington Redskins.

The Redskins run the ball effectively against most teams and were particularly harsh with Denver in the Super Bowl by running Timmy Smith on their bread-and-butter counter-gap play. But Washington coaches know all too well not to depend on that when they play the Giants. Banks' ability to defeat the tight end and get into the Redskin backfield has disrupted their offense and forced them to the air on more than one occasion.

Despite his success, Banks continues on the same path that got him to the level he enjoys today.

"I've never questioned why I play this game," he said. "I play because I love it,

and hard work is part of the territory."

Unfortunately, Banks could not participate in the Giants' organized workout program in the off-season because of his contract status, but he worked hard on his own, both physically and mentally.

After his daily workouts, Banks would spend hours watching tapes of his 1987 performances. And he wasn't doing it for self-gratification. The tape that drew the most attention was the Giants' first meeting with the Eagles, a game in which scrambling quarterback Randall Cunningham faked him off his feet several times.

"If it was basketball he'd have had a bunch of three-point plays," Banks said. "I have a lot of work left to do, as long as I'm still making mistakes that are correctable. So I watch two or three games every day, trying to see what I can do to eliminate some of those mistakes. If I see something I did good, I don't get all excited and start cheering."

"I try to find out why I did well on that particular play, just like I try to determine why I didn't do so well on some other plays. There are some areas I know I must improve. My man-to-man coverage dropped off last year, and I want to pick that up again. But then again, I played last year on a bad knee, and I think that hurt me in some areas."

At least one NFL observer agrees with Banks' self-assessment. He privately told people he thought Banks was the most overrated player in the league.

"Overrated?" Banks said with a laugh when he heard about the comment. "I didn't even know I was rated." ■



Opposing quarterbacks know the pass-rushing skills of Carl Banks.

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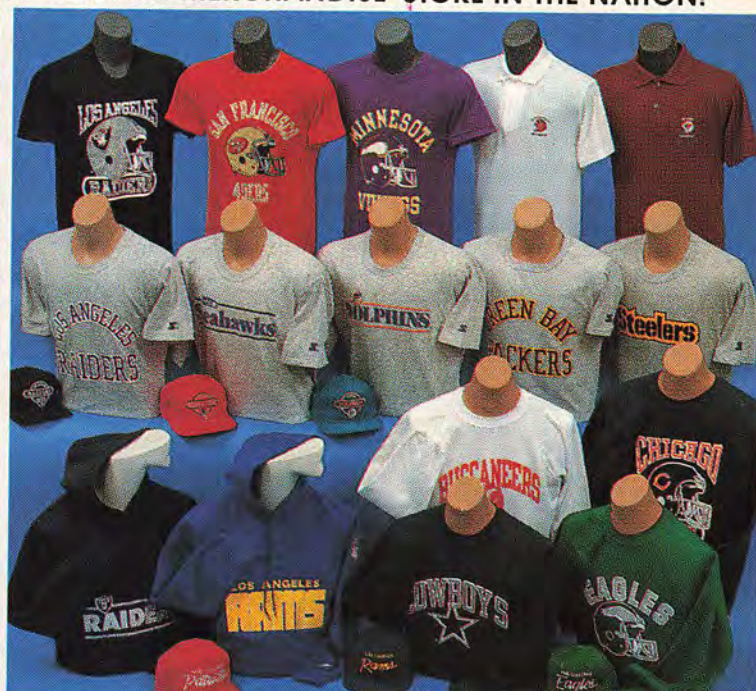


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sports section

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By STEVE HUBBARD
Pittsburgh Press

They booed Cliff Stoudt out of the National Football League, and when he returned to the Steel City months later with the United States Football League's Birmingham Stallions, an angry mob of Pittsburghers pelted him with iceballs, apples, oranges, beer cans and frozen Oreos. They bashed his helmet three times and clobbered an official standing near him with a beer bottle.

They wore "Boo Stoudt" buttons and T-shirts. They conducted boo rallies. They hung a dummy stuffed in Stoudt's Steelers uniform in effigy. They threatened his life.

All because he merely took the Steelers to the playoffs. Terry Bradshaw had won it *all* four times, dammit!

They cheered as David Woodley and Mark Malone writhed on the turf in pain. Yes, they applauded injuries. Fifteen hundred years after the Romans had given their last thumbs-down for a gladiator's poor effort, this is how far civilization had advanced.

"All he has to do is win the Super Bowl," Stoudt said after he had fled and Woodley had arrived. "I really hope he does, because that's the only way he'll be accepted in Pittsburgh.

"It's a tough place to play quarterback. Brad's (Bradshaw) still there, even if he isn't actually there in person. Woodley and Malone might not realize it, but they'll still be competing against him. I just hope they're ready."

They were not. Woodley retired after two mediocre years. Malone was exiled to San Diego after two fair and then two wretched, rancorous seasons.

A living example of rancorous was Steelers fan Tony Morelli Jr. Morelli sped his car through a stadium gate, knocked over huge vats of nacho cheese, drove up three levels of stadium ramps, crashed into a fence and blamed it on the ineptitude of Malone. Morelli later said he did it "just for laughs," paid \$685 for the nachos (the most expensive stadium snack this side of New York City) and apologized to the quarterback.

But many other fans never forgave, never apologized. They booed and hooted and chanted almost every time Malone took the field or threw a bad pass, which translates into often.

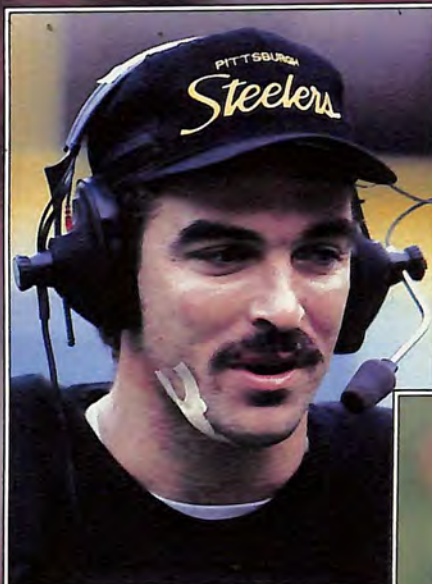
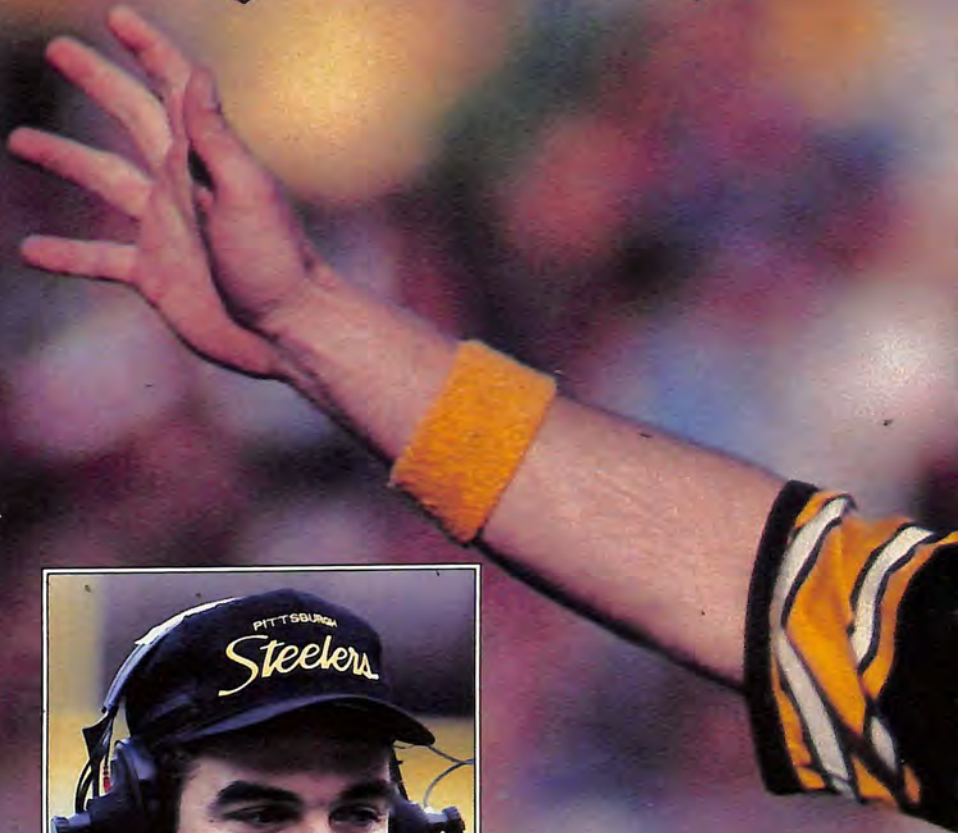
They besieged the talk shows with angry denunciations. They clogged the stadium with nasty banners:

Err Malone/None For The Thumb 'Til Malone's Done/Off The Mark Again/Malone, You Threw Our AFC Title Away/Stay On Strike Malone/Please! Go

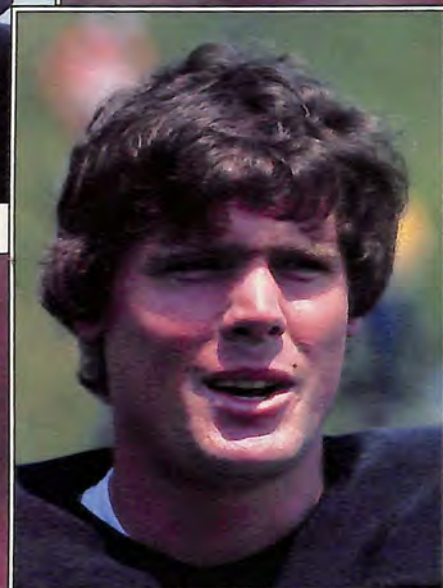
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Nobody has been able to follow in the immense footsteps of quarterback Terry Bradshaw (right), who provided the yardstick with which Pittsburgh fans measure success.

Life Aft



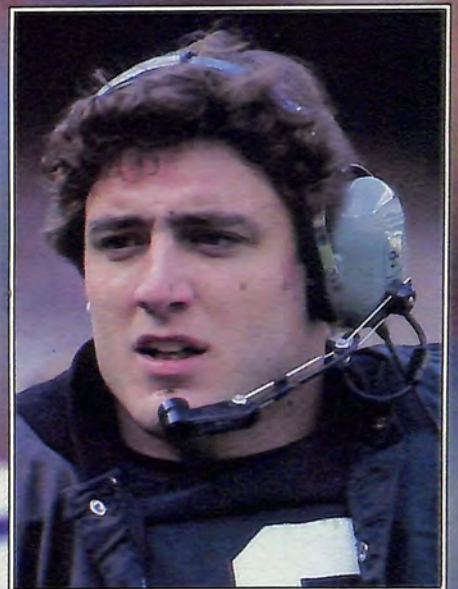
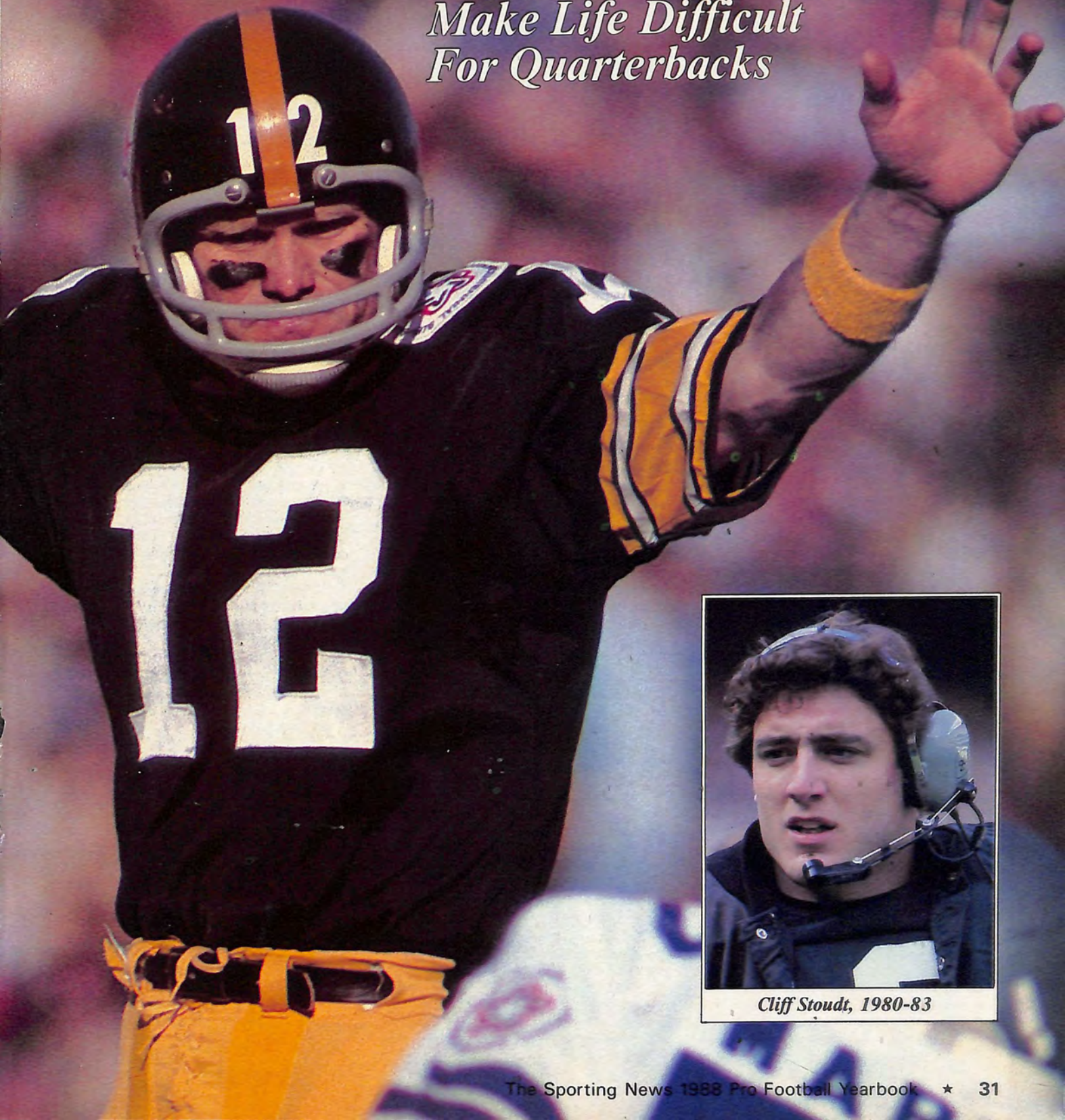
Mark Malone, 1980-87



David Woodley, 1984-85

er Bradshaw

*Angry Steeler Fans
Make Life Difficult
For Quarterbacks*



Cliff Stoudt, 1980-83

Bradshaw

Home, Malone/Get Us A Quarterback/Dear Santa: You Were Supposed To Bring Pittsburgh A New Quarterback; Ours Is Broken.

They bombarded the newspapers with angry letters: "If it takes a strike to get Mark Malone off the field, let them stay out all season."/"Mark Malone is like a castor oil sandwich, and every Sunday, Chuck Noll makes us take a bite."

One said Malone's performances were more laughable than (professional wrestler) Hulk Hogan's. Another said Malone was as contemptible as former President Richard Nixon because he doesn't "realize when he has done wrong." Another suggested the NFL change its terminology, that "an errant throw such as a bounced, overthrown, behind-the-back or otherwise uncatchable pass shall be known as a malone." Many others could be printed only in *Hustler* magazine.

Even on opening day for baseball's Pirates, a banner bearing an unseemly verb ripped Malone, the Steelers' pan for all seasons.

"There's no reason to subject Mark or anyone else to the kind of abuse he has had to take," Steelers center Mike Webster said. "Criticism is one thing, but what's happened to Mark is out-and-out slander. It has nothing to do with objectivity. It's just a case of being out to assassinate the guy."

"This is the worst treatment I can remember being given to a quarterback in Pittsburgh," said Myron Cope, a longtime talk-show host and Steelers play-by-play announcer. "It's almost like he committed a crime or something."

Stoudt gave Pittsburgh fans the bird, and no, we're not talking about the Phoenix Cardinals, for whom he now toils. When the USFL folded, he said he would rather retire than return to Pittsburgh.

Malone learned from Stoudt that you can't win by lashing out at 59,000 fans, so he never did. Still, they got to him, too.

He quit listening to the talk shows, stopped reading the papers, changed his telephone number and built a retreat deep in the woods, trying to shut out the world. He could not.

Indecisive, double-clutching, his confidence shot, Malone threw one touchdown and 11 interceptions in his final seven 1987 games. Mercifully, he was exiled to San Diego in mid-April for an eighth-round draft pick. He would not request a trade because he did not want to give the fans the satisfaction of running his life, but he thought it best for him and his teammates.

"It's a distraction you have to spend time and energy trying to ignore. It takes away from what you're trying to do on the field," Malone said. "I wasn't worried so much about the affect on me, because I thought I could handle it, but what affect the booing and negativism was having on the guys around me."

"When Mark took the team to the (1984 AFC) championship game, everything



Pittsburgh Coach Chuck Noll and former quarterback Terry Bradshaw combined to help the Steelers win four Super Bowls in the 1970s.

was Mark Malone, Mark Malone," half-back Rodney Carter said. "Then it turns. Some of it is uncalled for. It goes through your mind, 'When I make a mistake, will this happen to me?'"

"People say they put it out of their minds, and maybe some can, but when you're young, you can't help but get down and out when they boo you before you do anything," agreed Bubby Brister, who's competing with Todd Blackledge to become the latest in the long line of bogus Bradshaws.

"We got so where we were better on the road. We need the home-field advantage, need them cheering us instead of booing us. I hope the people will be supportive and not keep the same old thing going."

Brister said that when Malone was booed in warmups, "he was humiliated before he even started the game" and "it would have been a disaster" if Malone had tried to come back this year. Noll, the Steelers' longtime coach, agreed that the boobirds made a comeback impossible in Pittsburgh.

"It's tough to be successful when they boo you in warmups," Noll said. "Obviously, it hindered his performance. He was not the relaxed, devil-may-care, go-fling-the-football quarterback that I've seen in the past."

Nobody is claiming Stoudt or Malone are great quarterbacks. With 12 touchdowns and 21 interceptions, Stoudt finished 28th out of 31 rated quarterbacks in 1983, his only season as the starter. With 21 touchdowns and 37 interceptions, Malone finished 25th and 27th in 1986 and '87, his two full seasons.

Even with Ed McMahon leading the applause, they might not have been successful. But isn't it ironic that these rabid, knowledgeable fans, supposedly willing to do anything to help their team, are the very ones whose negativism undermined the Steelers' playoff chances twice in the past five years?

Amid a quarterbacking furor, the Steelers stumbled into the playoffs and got blown out in 1983, then missed postseason play by a game in 1987 as the fans yelled and Malone faded at the finish.

"How can you get a guy motivated and expect him to do well," fullback Frank Pollard wailed, "when you treat him like a dog?"

"I think knowledgeable people wouldn't do that, but you haven't always got knowledgeable people," Noll said. "You get people that are hung up with emotion more than anything else."

"There's no question everybody wants to win and they want to win badly. But a lot of people don't know how to win. A lot of people are much better at destroying than building. If you can destroy somebody, a lot of people get their kicks that way."

"It hurt Cliff. They came after Terry some, obviously, and we had a lot of horsepower and we were able to overcome a lot of things. Our defense was able to do things for us until the offense could get untracked. Finally the other part came around. The only way to handle it is to win."

But to fans spoiled by four Super Bowls in six years, can anything less constitute winning?

"I was talking to Joe Greene the other day about the team of the '70s," Steelers President Dan Rooney said. "He said, 'Nobody will do as well as us, because everything we did was totally successful (in the fans' eyes). We beat everyone 85-0.' You know we struggled, but people now think we never lost."

"People in Pittsburgh got spoiled in the '70s and felt Cliff Stoudt let them down and started pulling for Mark," longtime receiver Calvin Sweeney said. "Mark led us to the AFC championship his first year as the starting quarterback, but we slipped and people got down on him, too."

Continued



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Bradshaw

They're looking for a great white hope to come through."

"The people who want someone as good as Brad have to understand they don't grow on trees," Malone said. "A Bradshaw comes around once every 25 or 30 years."

Bradshaw hasn't started a full season since 1982, but his shadow looms large in the minds of his fans. When Brister was drafted in the third round in 1986, he said it took "a couple of seconds" before he was asked about Bradshaw. When Steve Bono was signed as a free agent in 1987, he appeared on a talk show and the first question was whether he could be another Bradshaw.

Steeler fans had a better Bradshaw in their backyard in Dan Marino, but they booed him his senior year at the University of Pittsburgh and Noll, hoping Bradshaw's elbow would recover, drafted defensive lineman Gabe Rivera instead of Marino.

What will it take to make people forget Bradshaw?

"That's a misnomer," Malone said. "He was the most successful quarterback ever to play as far as winning championships. But it's not so much replacing Bradshaw, it's replacing the team of the '70s."

"They had superior players at every position. They might have to build a new wing in the Hall of Fame to house all of them. But people tend to look at one person, not the whole picture. It's evident it's going to happen. It'll always be here until they win the next four Super Bowls. I don't know if that'll happen in the next 10 generations, but the comparisons will always happen."

Not necessarily. Scott Campbell, Malone's backup in 1984 and 1985 before being released and signing with the Atlanta Falcons, said Malone was overstating the problem, maybe out of bitterness.

"All it will take is a winning season and the playoffs," Campbell said. "Then you won't hear the abuse. Consistency helps, too. If you're great one week, lousy the next, they have high expectations and then you don't fulfill them the next week. Consistently bad's not going to cut it. They want consistently good, not necessarily All-Pro."

As Malone's consistency varied from fair to foul, the Steelers' victory total varied from nine to seven to six to eight. A mere wild-card berth would pump up this city now.

"For most of the '80s," Rooney said, "we had to go to the Super Bowl. Anything less was not going to be satisfactory. Now, they might be satisfied with the playoffs."

"People are just looking for a winning record and the playoffs... just to be respectable again," Brister said. "The last couple of years, we've been beaten pretty bad."

"I don't think we have to win four more Super Bowls before they're satisfied. We don't need miracles. We have a good



Cliff Stoudt (above) was the first to pay for Terry Bradshaw's immense popularity among Pittsburgh fans.

enough team that if the quarterback is throwing consistently, we're good enough to be in the playoffs. Last year, if we'd gotten more production from the quarterbacks, we'd have gone to the playoffs.

"They're far enough removed from the Bradshaw years, they just want someone who will work hard, play hard, bleed a little, sweat a little and move the ball."

Malone worked hard, but couldn't get the job done. Despite his woeful six touchdowns, 19 interceptions and 46.4 completion percentage, the 1987 Steelers finished 8-7 and would have made the playoffs if they had won either of their last two games.

"If I hit 52 or 53 percent and throw a couple of more touchdowns than interceptions, we'll make the playoffs," Brister said. "I'd like to play a helluva lot better than that. They might not have accepted that from Bradshaw when he was doing the Super Bowl shuffle, but it would be an improvement and a good start in my first year."

"I wouldn't be the last-rated quarterback two years in a row. The top 10—hell, even the top 20—would be an improvement."

A Steelers quarterback hasn't finished in the top 10 in passing since 1982, when Bradshaw ranked eighth.

Perhaps part of the problem is Noll's refusal to admit that one exists. He insists there's not a large correlation between great quarterbacks and great teams.

Bradshaw is the only top-flight quarterback Noll has developed in his 19 years as Pittsburgh coach. Bradshaw, the No. 1

overall pick in the 1970 draft, was considered by many scouts to be the best quarterback prospect to come along since Joe Namath. The St. Louis Cardinals offered six players for the youngster.

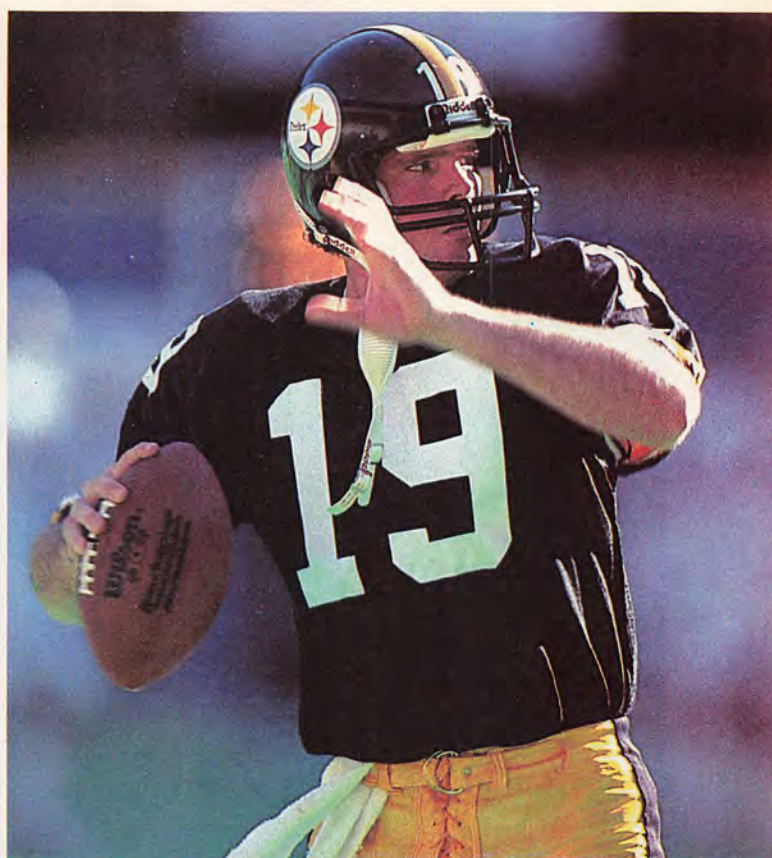
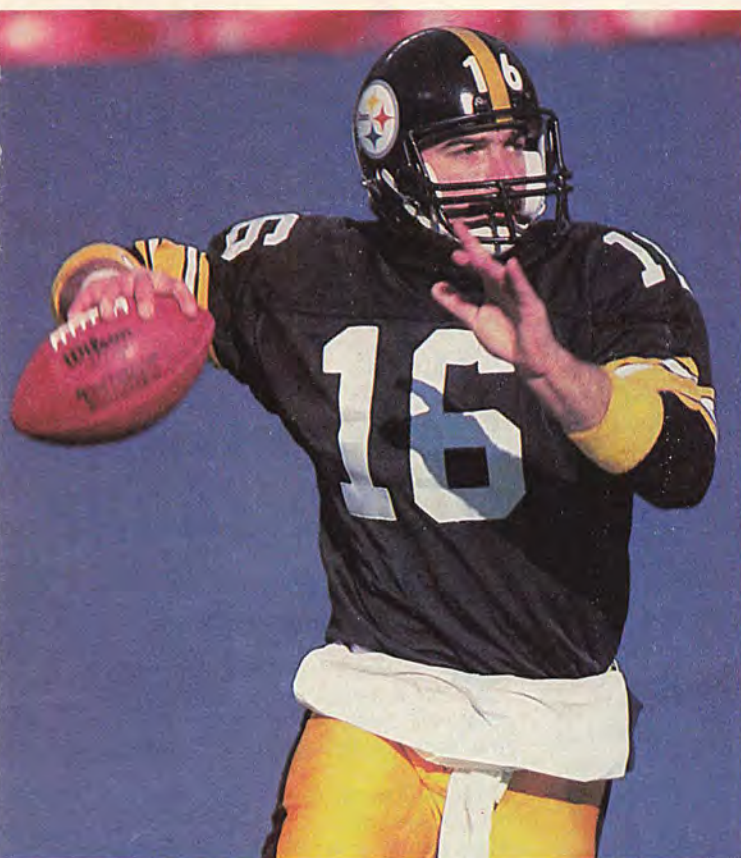
But even with the buildup, Bradshaw struggled through his first five seasons before going on to eight great years.

"Noll gets the maximum out of non-skill players and top-quality backs," said personnel evaluator and draft analyst Joel Buchsbaum. "The one thing he will not get the maximum out of is quarterbacks. Bradshaw had so much talent, it had to come out."

Despite seeing what Bradshaw could do for him, Noll has not felt compelled to go out and get another great quarterback. The only ones he has drafted in the '80s are Malone (late first round out of Arizona State in 1980), Rick Trocano (11th round out of Pittsburgh in 1981), Campbell (seventh round out of Purdue in 1984) and Brister (third round out of Northeast Louisiana in 1986). He traded a third-round pick for Woodley, who had lost his job to Marino, and a fourth-round choice for Blackledge, who had lost his Kansas City job to Bill Kenney. This does not make sense to many NFL executives, who are willing to spend whatever is necessary to fill football's most essential position.

"If you're going to rob a bank, don't get \$1,000. Take everything," one scout said.

"We have a philosophy that the most important position on the team is your starting quarterback, the second-most important position is your backup quarterback and the third-most important posi-



Both David Woodley (right) and Mark Malone were driven out of Pittsburgh by unhappy Steeler fans who

had expected them to post Bradshaw-like numbers despite obvious talent deficiencies.

tion is your third-string quarterback," Minnesota General Manager Mike Lynn said. "A lot of people would argue, but that's our philosophy."

Lynn said he wouldn't trade any of his three quarterbacks for a No. 1. San Francisco reportedly turned down a pair of No. 1 picks for Joe Montana, a 32-year-old quarterback with a bad back who might play only a couple more seasons. San Diego seriously considered offering more, and there were reports of huge packages offered for Washington's Jay Schroeder. But Noll said he would never give up a pair of No. 1 choices to get a top quarterback.

"That wouldn't have done it," he said. "People suffer from that fantasy. (John) Elway was going to win the whole thing, wasn't he? Marino was going to win it all. That quarterback who won it (Doug Williams), there weren't too many people who wanted him. He didn't win it by himself."

"There are a lot of guys who would mortgage the house to the hilt to get that white knight in shining armor. That ends up being a fantasy. You don't win with fantasies. You've got to get realities and the realities are that you win with lots of people who can perform. Which we need. Which is my priority."

"If one guy were going to do it, Miami would have done it for a long time and Denver would have won consistently. You've got a lot of other things to consider besides the guy out in the focus."

"There have been a lot of quarterbacks who have won Super Bowls who were 16th

choices, some that were signed as free agents, some that were No. 1 in the draft. There are a few great quarterbacks who haven't won Super Bowls or championships. There have been quarterbacks who have bounced around and ended up getting into a Super Bowl with their fifth or sixth team. What's that say about quarterbacks? It's not exactly consistent with the fantasy."

The "fantasy" is neither limited to Pittsburgh nor the post-Bradshaw era.

"I've been places where they've booed quarterbacks before," tackle Tunch Ilkin said. "I remember playing the Jets and the fans were all over Richard Todd. I've never seen fans treat a quarterback as bad as they did Todd. It's not exclusive to Pittsburgh. It's just football fans."

"Fans have been vociferous with quarterbacks as long as I can remember," Rooney said. "Jim Finks was our first 'T' quarterback. He was roughed up by the fans. Bobby Layne, a great quarterback, they got on him. Terry Bradshaw, everybody knows the fans got on him."

Layne didn't start his final home game because Coach Buddy Parker didn't want him to go out getting booed. Bradshaw was portrayed as a country bumpkin unable to learn the offense. In 1973, the fans booed him viciously and cheered loudly when Terry Hanratty replaced him and led the Steelers to a victory over the New York Jets. The next week, Bradshaw separated his right shoulder and the fans cheered.

"What makes people like that?" he asked.

Little boys made obscene gestures at him. "I wanted to kill them," he confessed. But Bradshaw replaced Joe Gilliam as the starter after the sixth game in 1974, led the Steelers to the first of their four Super Bowls and became a hero. Still, he wasn't immune to boos. And Rodney Dangerfield thought he worked some tough crowds.

"Fans boo everywhere," Blackledge said. "Fans booed me in Kansas City, but it was 25,000 or 30,000, as opposed to a sellout here. Because of the history of the team with Bradshaw, this city is so in tune to the team. It's very intimate here. In other cities, it's more distant."

"So far, the response (to his arrival) has been real positive. Obviously, there's going to be somewhat of a grace period, but I'll have to produce. If you produce, great. If you don't, it's tough. I don't have any grand illusions about that changing for me."

"I'm not going to try to emulate anybody. I'm just going to be the best Todd Blackledge can be. I certainly like the results with Terry Bradshaw, but it may not work out the same way, step for step."

Oh that it would. Blackledge has Bradshaw's initials, Brister his Louisiana background, but that might be where the comparisons end.

"I know I'm under a microscope with the fans, the media, everything. Especially at that position," Brister said. "But if I'm consistent and get the job done, they'll accept me. If I don't, I'll get run out of town. That's the way it is. Just look at the track record." ■

CAJUN

New Orleans Hebert Gives Of Life in the

By JIMMY SMITH
New Orleans Times-Picayune

There was a lot of justifiable ballyhoo in January when Louisiana native Doug Williams became the first black quarterback to start in a Super Bowl.

The fact that Williams earned Most Valuable Player distinction in the Redskins' 42-10 victory over the Denver Broncos merely served to intensify the fuss that the strong-armed veteran would have preferred to ignore.

Four weeks earlier, however, a direct descendant of an equally persecuted race had become the first Acadian quarterback to lead a National Football League team into the playoffs. Nobody even knew.



DOCKING!

Quarterback Fans a Taste Fast Lane

"It was pretty unique," said New Orleans Saints quarterback Bobby Hebert, the strong-armed Cajun who guided the Saints to their first-ever winning season (12-3) and playoff berth.

"I don't think there's ever been another Cajun quarterback in the NFL. You've had Terry Bradshaw and Bert Jones and Joe Ferguson. But they're not Cajuns. They're from north Louisiana. Nowadays, people think everybody from Louisiana is a Cajun. North Louisiana is more like you're from Texas.

"In my grandfather's time, if you called someone a Cajun, it was fighting words. Today, it's fashionable."

For the first time in more than two decades, it's also fashionable to be the quarterback of the Saints, who finally were able to discard 20 years of frustration by finishing second behind San Francisco in the NFC's Western Division while earning their playoff bouquet. In their previous 20 years of existence, the Saints had disappointed their hungry fans by finishing last or next-to-last in their division 17 times.

That the quarterback who finally led the Saints into NFL heaven grew up "60 miles as the crow flies" from New Orleans, in a small town called Cut Off, merely adds a fairy-tale luster to an already-heartening story.

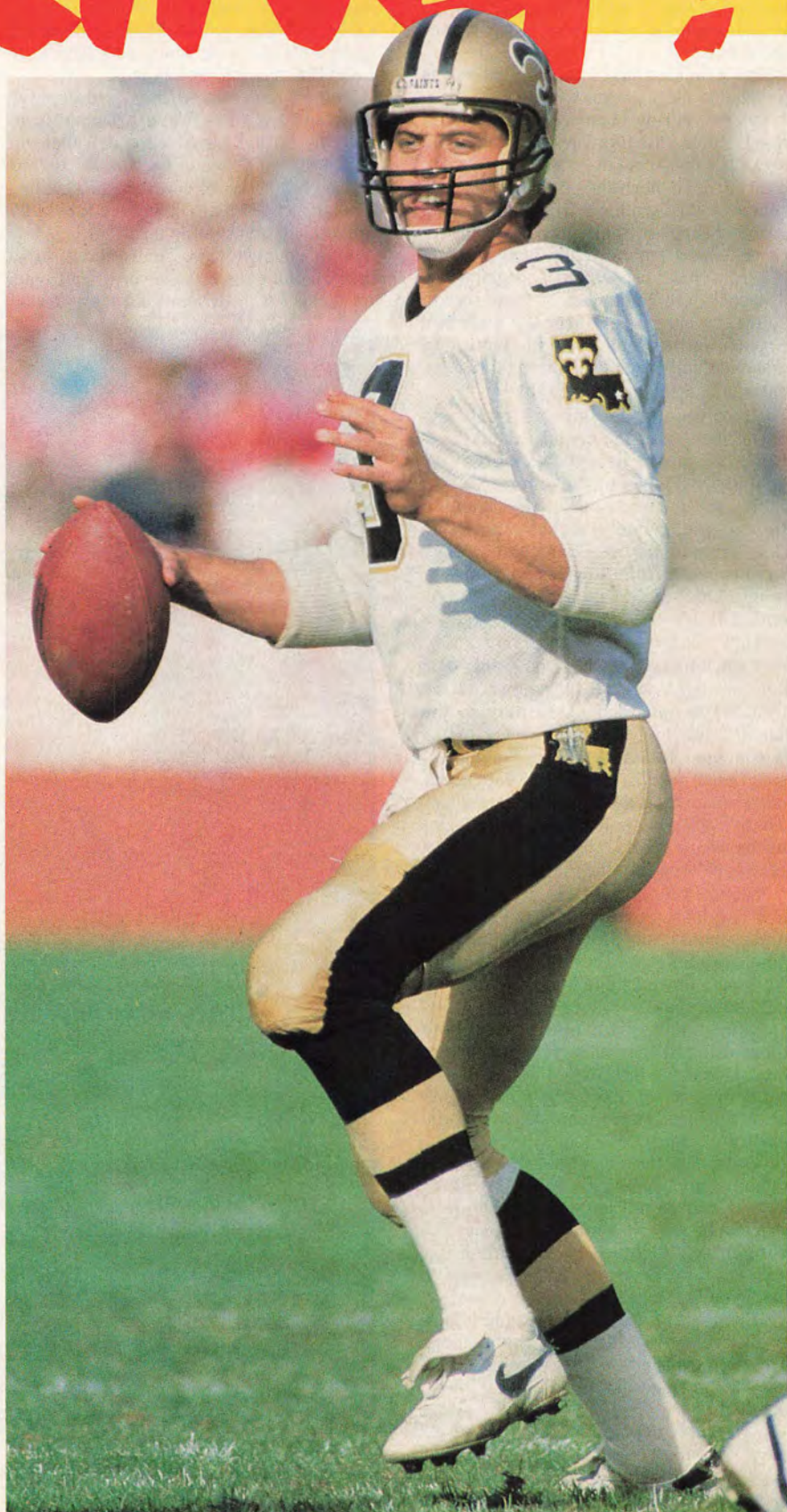
Yet the tale of this Cajun transformation of the NFL's former laughingstock franchise actually begins long before the advent of football, going back nearly four centuries, in fact, to 1605 when the French colonized the region of Canada now known as Nova Scotia, naming the colony Acadie, or Acadia.

The English later claimed the colony by right of the discoveries of explorer John Cabot, while in 1621 a grant to the peninsula was obtained by Sir William Alexander, the Scottish poet and statesman.

Control of Acadie subsequently changed hands several times in the strug-

Continued

Whether eating crawfish or throwing a football, Bobby Hebert is at the top of his game.



CAJUN

gle for North America, though the Acadians remained neutral during the fighting between the English and French. At the end of Queen Anne's War in 1713, the British obtained permanent possession of the colony.

The Acadians didn't know it, but it was fourth and long.

In 1755, during renewed conflicts with the French, the English questioned the loyalty of the Acadians, mostly because of their French heritage. British colonials removed the Acadians from their lands, stripped them of their property and dispersed them among other British colonies, from Massachusetts to Georgia.

A considerable number of those sent to southern areas eventually reached French settlements in south Louisiana and eventually Acadians, through dialectical progression, became Cajuns.

There hasn't been much for them to cheer about over the centuries and the 6-foot-4, 215-pound Hebert takes great delight in providing a morsel of pride.

"I really felt good about my heritage," Hebert said, "simply because the Cajun race always has been persecuted. They were expelled from Nova Scotia, refugees, really. That's why Cajuns are so isolated, and still are today. They were always looking to leave well enough alone.

"I can understand what Doug said about how he didn't want to be known as the first black quarterback to play in the Super Bowl, just the quarterback of the Washington Redskins. But if I'm in that situation, I feel I'm just part of the Cajuns, carrying on their beliefs and their culture. There's probably only 100,000 true Cajuns in the whole world. It's a proud culture. Everyone feels like they're related.

"When I'm out there on the field, they feel like it's a part of them out there. It makes them really proud when something good happens. And when things don't work out, they hurt like I do. A lot of them do, I know that."

Being homegrown makes it all the more difficult, particularly when you're dealing with an institution like the Saints, so beloved as to take on a fanatical, almost religious, fascination, despite its uninspiring history.

"Before I signed with the Saints, I talked to my dad and my wife (Theresa)," Hebert said, "and I knew, coming to New Orleans to play at home, I'd fall into the winner's syndrome. If you win here, you're a hero; if you don't, they'll want to hang you in the nearest tree.

"Everybody's close in Louisiana, more so than in, say, California, where things are more transient. If you're from California and you play for the Raiders, it's no big deal.

"It is here. People feel like they're related to you, feel like they know you, that you're one of them. There was a lot of pressure at first. You just try not to put it

on yourself, try not to dwell on your position and keep everything on an even keel. God has given me peace in that. And my family has always been supportive. If we win, I just hope to be prosperous and enjoy our successes."

The 27-year-old Hebert, like his ancestors, took something of a nomadic journey to the NFL. It really didn't begin until the third game of his senior season at South Lafourche High School, hard on the banks of Bayou Lafourche which cuts Highways 1 and 308 in south Louisiana.

Hebert had played mostly defensive back and tight end while growing up in Cut Off, getting his first football uniform at the age of 5. When he was 11, Hebert got his first taste of quarterback, guiding a neighborhood team called the Hawks by drawing up plays in the dirt.

As a youngster, he really didn't have the size of a quarterback—or the attitude.

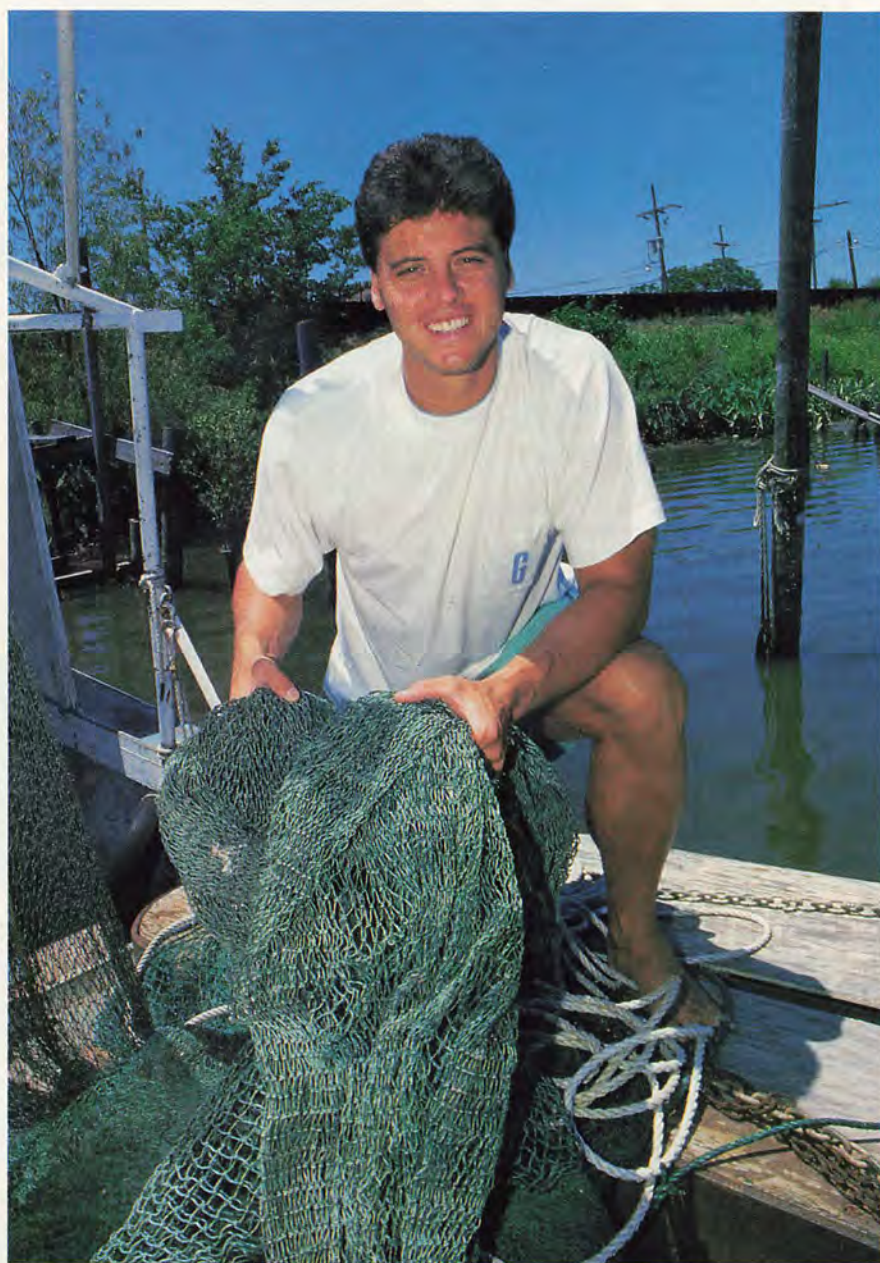
"When I was 15 years old I was out at

night clubs," Hebert said several years ago. "When you get your driver's license in South Lafourche (the parish in Louisiana encompassing Cut Off), you can go to any night club. I totaled two cars and walked away both times, though one time a buddy of mine went into the windshield and had a big egg on his head from hitting it."

But Hebert converted to quarterback in his last year of high school and his strong arm and mobility, raw and undefined at this point, helped his team win the Louisiana state Quad-A championship, leaving two highly regarded Louisiana prep quarterback prospects, Bonabel's Tommy Wilcox and Archbishop Shaw's John Fourcade, in his wake.

Wilcox went on to become an All-America defensive back at Alabama under Bear Bryant. Fourcade played

Continued



Bobby Hebert makes a living throwing a football, but he's still a favorite son of the Louisiana bayous.

quarterback for Mississippi and currently is No. 3 on the Saints' depth chart after serving last season as the team's replacement quarterback.

No major universities bothered to recruit Hebert, so he opted for Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Northwestern's coach, A.L. Williams, had tutored professional stars Bradshaw and Ferguson during his days as head coach at Shreveport's Woodlawn High School and knew a good quarterback prospect when he saw one.

"Bobby had some hitches," he said, "but we saw a lot of raw talent there that we felt like could be developed."

It wasn't always easy, but with the tutoring of Ferguson, who worked a lot with Hebert on fundamentals, and the help of a receiver named Mark Duper (now with the Miami Dolphins) and a running back named Joe Delaney (formerly with the Kansas City Chiefs), Hebert improved dramatically and developed as Williams had hoped. In his sophomore debut, he set a single-game Northwestern record with 465 yards in total offense (364 passing, 101 rushing) and tied another with four touchdown passes.

But a knee injury early in Hebert's junior season cut short that year, and an injury-marred senior season put the damper on his hopes of playing in the NFL. The scouts didn't have much to go on.

Matters were further complicated by a wife and a small child.

But another factor came into play that literally saved Hebert's career. The United States Football League had been organized and Hebert was a third-round pick of the Michigan Panthers in the league's first draft on January 4, 1983.

With two months to feed, he knew he had to find a job; he couldn't wait until April for the NFL draft.

"We were living on food stamps for four months before I signed with Michigan (later in January)," Hebert recalled. "I had a wife and a newborn baby. Here I was living on Third Street in Natchitoches, a rough part of town you wouldn't go in, trying to play football."

The Panthers offered Hebert \$150,000, three months before the NFL would hold its draft.

"I went from nothing to \$150,000," Hebert said. "Why should I have waited for the NFL draft? In seven months, I was the starting quarterback in the USFL championship game. Sixty minutes after that, I was the game's MVP."

In three USFL seasons, Hebert threw for 11,137 yards and 81 touchdowns. The Panthers won the inaugural USFL title game over the Jim Mora-coached Philadelphia Stars as Hebert passed for 314 yards and three touchdowns. Two years later, after the Michigan franchise had merged with the Oakland Invaders, Hebert was in the league championship

game again. But this time Mora's Baltimore Stars came out on top. Mora now is Hebert's coach at New Orleans.

Playing in the USFL, Hebert said, brought him back to his football roots in Cut Off, quite literally to the days when he sketched plays in the rich Louisiana soil.

"It was almost like sandlot," Hebert said of his one year with the Oakland Invaders. "When we tied the Baltimore Stars during the regular season, one second left, we're on the 25-yard line, last play of the game... we drew the play up in the sand. They didn't even have a play to call!"

"I get in the huddle and say 'OK, three receivers line up on this side, you do this. A.C. (Anthony Carter, a USFL teammate), run a backside post, the free safety overplays, I'm gonna hit you.' We did it. Nothing we ever practiced."

Hebert became a free agent after the 1985 season. His contract had expired, the USFL was planning to play a fall schedule and no NFL team held Hebert's rights. Everybody had passed in 1983 because the youngster already had signed with the Michigan Panthers.

Hebert could call his own shot.

He considered the Raiders and Cowboys, but signed with the Saints—a five-year, multi-million dollar deal that included a hefty signing bonus. The NFL dream had come true, though there are those who would tell you it could have happened earlier if Hebert had waited for the '83 NFL draft.

According to the National Scouting Combine, which does volumes of preparatory reports on potential draftees for NFL teams, Hebert ranked high in the "Year of the Quarterback." He fit in nicely with such talented draftees as John Elway, Jim Kelly, Tony Eason, Dan Marino, Todd Blackledge and Ken O'Brien.

"We rated Hebert right in with those guys," said National's Harry Buffington in 1985. "We gave him a 70 to 80 percent chance of making it in the NFL. That's about as high as we go with anybody. Elway and Kelly were just a little higher rated than Hebert, but not enough to make any difference. Hebert would have been a very high draft choice and gotten a long, hard look."

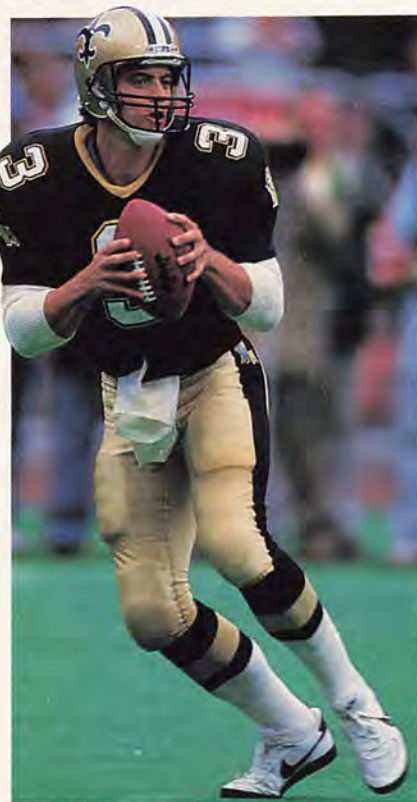
Hebert's 1985 rookie NFL season, the end of the Bum Phillips era in New Orleans, was not spectacular. Hebert had rested for about two weeks after the end of the 1985 USFL season, but then picked it right back up again with the Saints. He started the last six games, throwing for 1,208 yards and five touchdowns.

In 1986, Hebert won the starting job before breaking his right foot in the third game of the regular season in Candlestick Park against the San Francisco 49ers. In 1987, Mora announced early that Dave Wilson would be his starting quarterback. By the end of training camp, however, Hebert, who had played just 11 NFL games, had taken Wilson's job and stood poised on the brink of story-book heroics.

He played 12 games in '87, hitting a Saints-record 55.8 percent of his passes for 2,119 yards and 15 touchdowns. His nine



Home is where the heart is and New Orleans quarterback Bobby Hebert is ever conscious of his Cajun roots.



interceptions were the fewest by a Saints' starting quarterback in a decade.

Like a true Cajun, Hebert made the most of the opportunities that presented themselves, improvising when necessary to get the job done.

The Saints' 12-3 record was the second-

best in pro football and their nine-game regular-season winning streak was the NFL's best in 1987. Hebert played the last six games on a right knee that required arthroscopic surgery in February. Twice during the regular season, he had bloody fluid drained from the knee. The last two weeks of the year, against the Packers in the regular-season finale and the Vikings in the wild-card playoff game, Hebert needed a cortisone injection.

But not even that disappointing finish could diminish the sense of accomplishment, made all the more special by his south Louisiana roots.

"It definitely meant a lot to me," Hebert said. "I've been around Saints football since I was a boy. I think the biggest thrill came right after the Tampa Bay game (when the Saints clinched the playoff berth).

"When I signed with the Saints, my wife said it would be nice for me to be the quarterback when we had our first winning season and went to the playoffs. We were just talking in general, saying it would be nice if we could do this or that."

Ironically, Hebert's boyhood dreams often included playing in the NFL, but not for the Saints.

"To me," he said, "Bart Starr was big. Bart Starr and the Green Bay Packers. My dad went to LSU, so I knew all about Jimmy Taylor. I can remember in the third grade, the Ice Bowl game against Dallas.

"There was such tension that day I had a migraine headache when the game was over. I was a big Green Bay Packers fan. My next-door neighbor was a Cowboys fan. And I had a big picture of Joe Namath in my room when the Jets got really exciting.

"When I got into junior high, I liked the Dolphins. And I wasn't really jumping on the bandwagon. I knew all their players: Griese, Csonka, Kiick, Manny Fernandez. My dad took me to the Super Bowl when the Dolphins and Cowboys played in old Tulane Stadium."

What about the Saints?

"When you're younger, Hebert said, "you fall into the typical winner's syndrome. We went to the Saints games for five or six years, but I was a typical fan. We'd be cheering if we were winning, but if the Saints started losing, we'd cheer the other team."

Now Hebert will have to perform under pressure that no other Saints quarterback has experienced. The pressure to repeat.

"It'll be constant," he said. "It's always constant. If we hadn't won last year, there'd be pressure to win this year. Now, people are looking for bigger and better things. But being raised here, the pressure is completely different."

But Hebert is a survivor. That comes from good upbringing.

"My mother always told me to stand up for what you are. Don't change your ways, the way you talk," said Hebert, whose Cajun accent is as thick and rich as New Orleans' coffee and chicory.

"Hold on to your roots, enjoy doing what the Cajuns do. When I was playing

football in Michigan and California, if I thought I was losing my accent, I'd just call my grandmother and it would be back in a second."

But Hebert admits he's always been a bit more cosmopolitan than most Cajuns, including his younger brother Benjy.

"When we were kids, before school, Benjy would be out checking his traps for furs. Made about \$7,000 in high school. Benjy can live off the land. You know, if someone's driving along the road and sees a big snapping turtle, they might smile and say, 'That's nice. Look at the turtle.' A Cajun will stop his car and put that snapping turtle in his trunk. Big snapper like that is good meat."

And also an ingredient in good Cajun

food, not the kind popularized through the American craze of blackened redfish.

"That's not Cajun food," Hebert said. "My grandmother's a good cook. She'll cook a few things and we go to her house with the ice chest and freeze it all up, stuff like chicken fricassee, seafood gumbo. My favorite is rabbit and turtle sauce picante. You know what Cajuns do with a redfish? Make redfish court bouillon."

For the uninitiated, that's pronounced KOO-BE-YON. And it's large, thick filets of redfish simmered long and slowly in a rich tomato gravy.

"That's Cajun food," Hebert said.

And that comes straight from the mouth of pro football's only Cajun quarterback. ■

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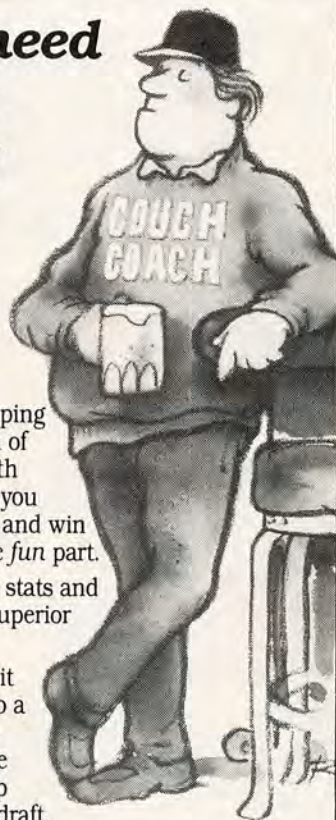
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THE

RIVALRY

Bears and Packers Have A

By DON PIERSON
Chicago Tribune

The one thing Lindy Infante won't have to worry about as new coach of the Green Bay Packers is stoking his team's rivalry with the Chicago Bears. It has been stoked and restoked by the best of 'em. This rivalry is the very essence of football tradition, transcending the coaches, players and fans who keep it going.

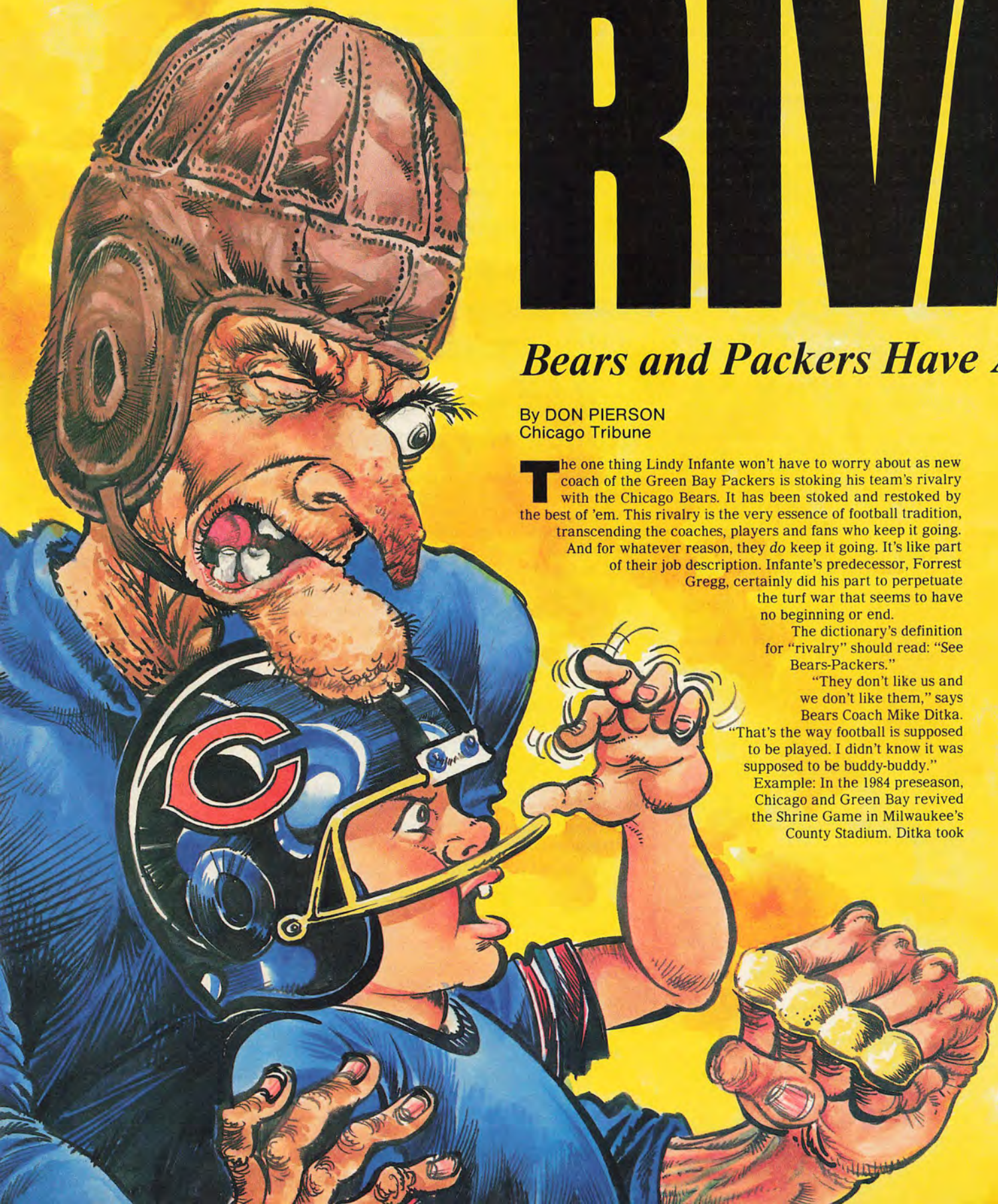
And for whatever reason, they *do* keep it going. It's like part of their job description. Infante's predecessor, Forrest Gregg, certainly did his part to perpetuate the turf war that seems to have no beginning or end.

The dictionary's definition for "rivalry" should read: "See Bears-Packers."

"They don't like us and we don't like them," says Bears Coach Mike Ditka.

"That's the way football is supposed to be played. I didn't know it was supposed to be buddy-buddy."

Example: In the 1984 preseason, Chicago and Green Bay revived the Shrine Game in Milwaukee's County Stadium. Ditka took



ALBY

Hate-Hate Relationship

exception when Gregg called a timeout late in the first half.

Never one to stifle an opinion, Ditka told Gregg it was a stupid thing to do as the two men trotted off the field. Actually, "stupid" was not really the word Ditka used.

In the locker room, Gregg told his players: "You take care of the Bears, I'll take care of Ditka."

It was the last preseason game the two clubs have played.

Gregg and Ditka once played together

Continued



THE RIVALRY

for the Dallas Cowboys, but that was a necessary evil. Both were nearing the end of their careers and, by that time, were well versed in the true meaning of gridiron warfare. Gregg was a Hall of Fame offensive tackle for Green Bay; Ditka was a Hall of Fame tight end for Chicago.

Although the two coaches always downplay the halftime incident and claim to have at least a working friendship, their teams always have seemed intent on promoting acrimonious feelings.

"Mike and Forrest don't have the greatest desire to like each other and it stems to the players," explained Bears defensive tackle Steve McMichael.

Ditka claims, tongue firmly planted in cheek, that he talked to Gregg before the first regular-season meeting in 1984.

"I told Forrest what a great day for football I thought it was," Ditka said. "Clear sky, natural grass, nice stadium, close to the fans, great fall day, Bears and Packers. To me, that is the epitome of the way NFL games should be played."

This series forms the heart and soul of pro football history. Halas, Lambeau, Grange, Nagurski, Hubbard, Hutson, Lombardi, Nitschke, Starr, George, Butkus, Sayers, Payton.

"It's the greatest rivalry, no doubt about it," said Ray Nitschke, who grew up in a Chicago suburb watching the Bears and now lives in Green Bay after a 15-year career as a hard-hitting linebacker with the Packers.

"It shows what football is all about. It's an emotional thing. Anybody who has been involved knows it is truly intense. In Green Bay, it (the Chicago game) is still known as 'Bear Week.'"

"The rivalry is for real," said Chicago safety Dave Duerson, who learned firsthand about rivalries while playing college football at Notre Dame. "It's not like Notre Dame-USC. That's clean. Notre Dame and Michigan State is dirty. This is dirty. You have to watch your back all over the field."

After one game, McMichael said, "I thought everyone should have taken off their face masks and put on black hightop shoes."

Neither team has a more bitter rival, nor more loyal followers. The Packers and Bears fans are the ones who really perpetuate the biannual ill-feeling.

When the Bears used to stay in the old Northland Hotel in downtown Green Bay, Packer fans would delight in setting off fire alarms to disturb whatever Bears happened to be observing curfew.

Extracurricular activity has been a part of it since the very first game in 1921, 65 years before Green Bay defensive lineman Charles Martin slammed Bears quar-



Former Green Bay linebacker Ray Nitschke did his part to intensify the Bears-Packers rivalry.

terback Jim McMahon to the turf in what Nitschke called "the lousiest cheap shot I've ever seen in my life."

The Bears still were the Staleys when that first game was played at Wrigley Field in 1921, and the National Football League was still the American Professional Football Association. The Staleys had a guard from Ohio State named Tarzan Taylor, who was described as "small but mean." He threw a sneak punch that broke the nose of Howard (Cub) Buck, a Green Bay tackle who dwarfed Taylor.

Instead of retaliating, Buck admonished Taylor by saying softly, "You're supposed to be a college graduate and a gentleman, you know." Taylor said Buck's reprimand hurt him more than sticks or stones.

Relations failed to remain on such a civilized level. When the Bears arrived in

their locker room in Green Bay in 1985, they were greeted by a bag of manure accompanied by a signed note from a Wisconsin radio station: "Here's what you guys are full of."

Only two weeks before that incident, the teams had met in Chicago, an occasion selected by Ditka to unleash William (The Refrigerator) Perry on unsuspecting Packer linebacker George Cumby at the goal line in front of a national-television audience.

Twice Perry wiped out Cumby on Walter Payton touchdown runs and once the 308-pound defensive lineman carried it over himself in the Bears' 23-7 victory. The game did not sit well with the Packer players or fans.

"We call them the Green Bay Quackers," said Bears wide receiver Dennis McKinnon. "Crybabies about every little thing that doesn't go their way."

After the Monday night embarrassment in Chicago, Bears defensive tackle Dan Hampton said the Packers kept talking.

"All they could think about was, 'Wait until you come up to Green Bay,'" Hampton said. "Like it was some kind of scenic tour. Why don't they play football when the whistle blows?"

"When you're undefeated (the Bears were 8-0 when they traveled to Green Bay), everybody gets to talk," said Packers offensive tackle Greg Koch, now with the Minnesota Vikings. "I see that Ditka has gone from almost getting fired to the wise old sage of football."

Hampton and Koch were teammates at Arkansas, but alma maters are irrelevant once the Bears and Packers line up.

"I respect Lynn Dickey, but I wouldn't give you two cents for the whole Green Bay Packer team," Hampton said.

"He must be giving a penny a sack," Koch said. "Dan's just a frustrated rock star. Have his shock treatments taken effect yet?"

With less than a minute left in the "Perry game" and the Bears in command after two goal-line blocks and Perry's touchdown, Ditka was passing and Gregg was blitzing.

"I thought the passing was kind of rubbing it in," Koch said.

"If they think we were running up the score, they can do something about it up there," Ditka said.

When the show arrived in Green Bay for that 1985 rematch, fans in the parking lot of Lambeau Field paid money for the opportunity to grab a sledgehammer and bash real refrigerators with No. 72 painted on them.

Perry answered by catching a touchdown pass in a 16-10 Chicago victory that was punctuated by six personal fouls in the first half, four by the Packers. One, a very objectionable late hit by safety Ken Stills on Bears fullback Matt Suhey, was endorsed by Gregg.

"I don't mind that. He took a crack at somebody. That's aggressive football," Gregg said.

'It's not like Notre Dame-USC. . . . This is dirty. You have to watch your back all over the field'

—Dave Duerson

Continued

YOUR '88



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The rivalry turned ugly in 1986 when Green Bay's Charles Martin (94) was ejected after slamming Chicago quarterback Jim McMahon to the turf long after the play had been whistled dead.

THE RIVALRY

On the ninth play of the game, Packers cornerback Mark Lee was ejected after he ran Walter Payton out of bounds and over the Bears' bench eight yards away. Lee said Payton had pulled him by the jersey to help create the momentum.

The following day, Ditka said on a radio show: "I don't like Green Bay at all. I have great respect for Forrest and the organization. But I don't like what I see and hear coming out of their players."

The rivalry regressed the following year from intense to ugly when Martin slammed McMahon to the Soldier Field turf long after the play had ended. Martin was ejected from the game and later

fined and suspended for two games.

"I guess he ain't in no position to win the Nobel Peace Prize for intelligence," McMichael said of Martin.

Martin was wearing a towel at the time listing several Bears' players that he admitted were targets. While such behavior was criticized by Packer coaches and probably never encouraged, it was curious to the Bears that the towel wasn't at least noticed by someone in the Green Bay locker room.

Again, Ditka mentioned the lack of character displayed by the Packers. This time, Gregg responded: "I resent the statement by Mike Ditka that our football team is nothing but a bunch of thugs and has no character. That is a reflection on me as a person and a football coach. I totally disagree with his assumption about our team."

Ditka and Gregg didn't invent this animosity. It came with the package.

Example: In 1972, when the Bears were annually chasing the Packers, Chicago

Coach Abe Gibrion sent halfback Gary Kosins to block Green Bay placekicker Chester Marcol after kickoffs.

Such ungentlemanly roughness on their star kicker was abhorred by the Packers, who had won the 1971 NFC Central Division title thanks to Marcol's weekly contributions.

"What does he (Marcol) think he is?" Gibrion asked, "a Polish Prince or something?"

Later, Kosins sheepishly revealed that he, too, was Polish—original name Kosinski.

George Halas and Curly Lambeau were the patriarchs of the two franchises and pioneers of the National Football League itself. Lambeau organized the Packers as an independent team in 1919 while Halas founded the Bears a year later in Decatur, Ill., as the Staleys. Halas moved the franchise to Chicago in '21.

The Bears soon became known as Mon-

Continued

'I wouldn't give you two cents for the whole Green Bay Packer team.'

—Dan Hampton

'Dan's just a frustrated rock star. Have his shock treatments taken effect yet?'

—Greg Koch



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THE RIVALRY

sters of the Midway as they piled up victories and NFL championships. Through the 1940s, the Bears were acknowledged kings of pro football.

But then the Packers took over. Lambeau & Co. had already managed six NFL titles by the end of the '40s, but the Packers really turned it on in the 1960s under Coach Vince Lombardi. While the Bears were able to win just one NFL championship (1963), Lombardi's troops were winning five (1961, '62, '65, '66 and '67) along with the first two Super Bowls (1967 and '68).

That, of course, did not sit well with the Papa Bear, who by now was watching his team from the sideline, though still actively involved in its operation. He remained involved until shortly before his death in 1983, the year before the Bears returned to prominence under Ditka.

The feud was so intense between Lambeau and Halas during the early years that they refused even to shake hands. Yet Halas showed his respect for the Green Bay franchise in 1956 when he helped keep it from going under by appearing in Green Bay to help push a city bond issue to build Lambeau Stadium. The new facility was opened with a 1957 game against the Bears.

But those kinds of stories have been few and far between. Mostly it's been fire and brimstone. It never has seemed to matter who was playing or coaching. The beat went on.

Example: In 1978, Halas ordered his coaching staff to steal the Packers' offensive signals, which were being flashed by assistant coach Zeke Bratkowski, a former Bears player and assistant coach.

The assignment landed on the desk of Chicago's pro scouting director, Bill Tobin, now the team's vice president of player personnel. Tobin had left Green Bay in 1974 when Bart Starr became Packer coach, replacing Tobin's mentor, Dan Devine.

Tobin happily deciphered Bratkowski's signals and relayed plays to Bears defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan for four games during the 1979 and 1980 seasons. The Bears won three, including the last one, 61-7, the most humiliating Packer defeat ever. Tobin said it "wasn't easy" to lose the one—a 12-6 overtime defeat in Green Bay.

Tobin recalled the words of Halas when he was given the assignment: "If they can stand there on the sidelines in front of God and everybody else and signal in their plays, then we ought to be able to learn them as well as their quarterback."

After the 61-7 loss, Starr charged after Chicago Coach Neill Armstrong to complain about Ryan's blitzing at the end of the game.



"Bart did the talking and I did the listening," Armstrong said. "Blitzing is part of our defense. He said he'd rather not hear what I had to say."

Said Packer cornerback Mike McCoy: "You have to have the instincts of an animal to kick and keep kicking a team when they're down."

The next year, the Packers opened in Chicago. "I know they'll come in here higher than a Georgia pine," Armstrong said.

The Packers did, winning 16-9; the Bears had stopped stealing signals.

The two teams have played more games—135—than any other rivals in the NFL, with the Bears leading the series, 74-55-6. That only partly accounts for the intensity. Other factors include:

- Wisconsin and Illinois are border states.
- There are enough Packer fans in Chicago alone to keep the fires burning during the off-season.
- There are fewer places to hide in Green Bay, and, consequently, fewer acknowledged Bears fans.
- Fans on both sides are intensely loyal, meaning that Bears fans traveling north from Chicago would be well advised to leave their sweatshirts home—and vice versa.

Bears Coach Mike Ditka (above) and former Packers Coach Forrest Gregg (right), once teammates with the Dallas Cowboys late in their careers, have rekindled the animosity and fires of yesteryear's Green Bay-Chicago rivalry.

versa.

During the years that Jack Pardee (1975-77) and Armstrong (1978-81) coached the Bears and Devine (1971-74) coached the Packers, the rivalry suffered. The natural link to tradition was lost because none of those coaches had ever played for their teams.

But then along came Gregg and Ditka, who rekindled the fires of yesteryear. Those flames still burn hot in Ditka every time he recalls his days as a player in the early '60s, when the Packers were kings and the Bears their pawns—except for that glorious 1963 season.

"We called them the Red Bay Packers," Ditka said. "That's because whenever they heard 'Green Bay Packers,' our coaches choked."

"I'm not sure it was the coaches or the players who choked. Halas had some great names for the Packers, but he had great respect for Lombardi. They had set the precedent. You had to beat them to be the champions."

"When we beat them twice in 1963, including the opener in Green Bay, those were two of the greatest memories I had as a player. When we beat them 26-7 in Wrigley Field, I don't remember the incidents in that game, but I remember the feeling."

"To beat a team like that, you really had to be playing good football. Bart Starr got hurt in that game. Our defense went after them and our offense controlled the ball."

Nitschke remembers a detail of that

"They don't like us and we don't like them."

—Mike Ditka



game all too well. The key play came when Willie Galimore, behind blocks by tackle Herman Lee and Ditka, broke loose for a 27-yard touchdown run and a 13-0 lead.

"I had a lot to do with the Bears winning, because I was playing a quarterback sneak. It was short yardage," Nitschke said, as if it were yesterday. "Bill Wade turned and handed off. Once I committed myself, it was too late. I should have been helping."

Nitschke still recalls a particular hit Ditka put on him. "Not a legitimate block," Nitschke said.

Ditka remembers, too.

"Ray Nitschke called me a dirty football player once, but he was wrong," said Ditka, who recalled the block in question as an inadvertent shove to keep his balance after a play.

Unfortunately, the two teams never have played in an NFL championship game and never will as long as the current alignment prevails. Before they defined the "Black and Blue" NFC Central Division, both teams were in the Western Conference.

In 1941, they met in their only playoff game after tying for the title with 10-1 records. The Bears won and went on to beat the New York Giants for the NFL championship.

The Bears' only loss that season was to the Packers in Chicago. The Bears were averaging 42 points for their first five games, including a 25-17 opening victory in Green Bay, when Lambeau brought the Packers into Wrigley Field.

"The game was a setup for us psychologically," Lambeau said. "Our players kept reading, day after day, about the Bears being the wonder team, the unbeatable team. We knew the Bears were reading the same stuff. We hoped they believed it. We didn't."

Before the league divided into conferences and started playoffs in 1933, the clo-

sest the Bears and Packers came to competing for the unofficial title was in 1930. The Packers finished at 10-3-1, the Giants 13-4 and the Bears 9-4-1. The Bears lost their first two games to the Packers and won their third meeting.

The second game was a 13-12 victory by the Packers that made the difference in the season's standings. Two missed extra points cost the Bears, who did get some consolation out of first-year man Bronko Nagurski's performance.

When the Bears punted, Nagurski and Red Grange lined up as blocking backs. Cal Hubbard, a 260-pound Green Bay tackle, had heard of the Bronk's toughness and wanted to test him. But Grange kept getting in his way. Finally, Hubbard whispered to Grange, "Look, Red, I promise I won't block the kick. Just let me through. I want a crack at Nagurski to see if he's as tough as they say."

Grange obliged. Hubbard charged into Nagurski and bounced back to the line of scrimmage. "Thanks, Red," Hubbard said, "but please don't do me any more favors like that."

Curiously, the teams have rarely battled each other for division supremacy. Usually, one team is up while the other is down. But every game is meaningful,

**'You take care
of the Bears, I'll
take care of
Ditka'**

**—Forrest
Gregg**

whether it has anything to do with standings or not.

In 1968, the Bears needed to beat the Packers in their season finale to win their first Central Division title.

Earlier that season, the Bears had beaten the Packers when Sayers rushed for 205 yards, his all-time high. With Starr hurt in the rematch and replaced by little-known Don Horn, the Bears thought they had a good chance. But when Nitschke intercepted a pass in the closing minutes, the Bears' dream died, 28-27, and the Minnesota Vikings won the title.

Jerry Vainisi, now a vice president of player personnel for the Detroit Lions, knows the Bears and Packers from both sides. His older brother, Jack, served as a scout for the Packers in the 1950s before he died of a heart attack at age 33 in 1960.

Jerry, who grew up in Chicago, served as a ball boy for the Packers and stayed a Packer fan until 1972, when the Bears hired him as controller.

"My dog's name was Packer and I told Mugs Halas he was too old to change his name," Vainisi said.

The Bears-Packers game Vainisi remembers most was played December 4, 1960, in Wrigley Field.

"My brother Jack died the Sunday after Thanksgiving and the following Sunday, Lombardi dedicated the game against the Bears to Jack. The Packers won 41-13 and rode that crest to win the Western Division title," Vainisi said.

When Vainisi was interviewed for the Bears' job, it was just before a Bears-Packers exhibition game.

"I watched the game not knowing if I'd be a Bear fan for the first time or a Packer fan for the last time, or what," Vainisi said.

Most people have no trouble choosing one or the other.

As long as there are little Green Bays and big Chicagos, grass fields, forearms, and bloody lips, there will be the Bears and the Packers.

The Bears will be playing their home games this year on grass after Soldier Field is converted. That will enhance the rivalry.

"I remember the old uniforms and grass fields, white jerseys with dirt and mud and a lot of blood," said Bears guard Tom Thayer. "Now, you play games on nice AstroTurf and nobody is dirty. There's a little blood from turf burns, but it's not like the old games. In Green Bay, you can tell you went through a game and tell what it's all about."

"Their (Packer) players don't pick up anybody off the ground and ours don't pick any of theirs up," Ditka said. "After the game, you shake hands and say, 'Good job. I enjoyed playing. See you again in two weeks.' I thought that was the way you were supposed to play."

"We went through a span in pro football when there was so much patting guys on the butt and picking them up that you wondered what was going on."

And when would it all end? Never, at least in the case of the Packers versus the Bears. ■

Unpredictable Cardinals Owner Bill Bidwill Leaves Friends, Foes Scratching Their Heads

By BERNIE MIKLASZ
Dallas Morning News

For more than two months, Bill Bidwill left his employees dangling. With an uneven, choked-up voice, Bidwill had informed the front-office staff January 15 that he planned to move his Cardinals from St. Louis to Phoenix. Then he went into hiding.

By late March, two weeks after the transfer had been formally approved by the National Football League owners, the Cardinals' staff still was suspended in time. Would they be asked to accompany the team to Arizona? Would moving expenses be paid? Or would they just be turned out into the streets with no explanation?

Many of them had been with Bidwill for a good part of the franchise's 28 years in St. Louis. The Cardinals, operated like a mom-and-pop corner grocery, clearly were an anomaly in the often heartless, corporate world of the modern NFL.

But the Cardinals' intimate little family was shaken by Bidwill's aloofness. For weeks, their questions and fears were met with stone-cold silence. The treatment seemed cruel. Most employees tried to contain their rage; several finally quit out of frustration.

"It was vintage Bill Bidwill," said Dan Dierdorf, the former All-Pro tackle who played for the Cardinals from 1971-1983 and now does football commentary for ABC-TV. "In my opinion, he was testing them—giving them the ultimate test of loyalty. Bill wanted, I think, to see who would confront him, or who would call a reporter and attack him. But no one complained publicly. They passed the test, and then he rewarded them."

This is how:

Most (around 25) staff members were invited to go west with Bidwill, the players and the coaches. Moving expenses would be picked up by the club. All were offered increases in salary. A cost-of-living adjustment was added. If the staff couldn't sell their St. Louis homes within six months, Bidwill would purchase them.

The mom-and-pop grocery still had its doors open; Bill Bidwill had taken care of his people. He had compensated them for their faith and obedience. And he did so in typical, quirky fashion—having his son, Bill Jr., make the offer to each worker.

"Bill is a nice man who doesn't easily

interact with people," Dierdorf said.

They're used to Bidwill's quirks around the Cardinals' offices. Wishing him a merry Christmas usually will be received with a "bah" and a "humbug." And then Bidwill will turn around and tuck Christmas bonuses into staff paychecks and send lavish baskets of fruit, cheeses and imported wines to their homes.

In 1985, Bidwill fired head Coach Jim Hanifan and nine assistants an hour after the final regular-season game.

At half-time, Bidwill had had the locks changed on the coaches' offices. Less than a month later, Bidwill sent the deposed staff to Mobile, Ala., for the Senior Bowl, so they could lobby other NFL coaches and hunt for jobs. Bidwill picked up airfare, hotel and meals.

The coaches, stunned by Bidwill's insensitivity on the day he switched the locks, were now taken aback by his kindness.

"Bill Bidwill always proves that trying to predict what Bill Bidwill will do—or attempting to define him as a man—is an

almost impossible task," Dierdorf said.

★ ★ ★

William V. Bidwill, the introverted 55-year-old owner of the Cardinals, remains a mystery man, even in the aftermath of his team's highly publicized move to Phoenix. The intense glare of the national media, and the persistent courting by several cities that sought the Cardinals did little to unravel additional layers of Bidwill's well-guarded personality.

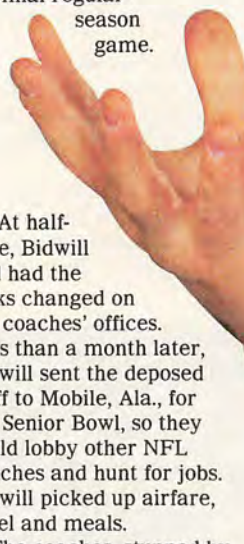
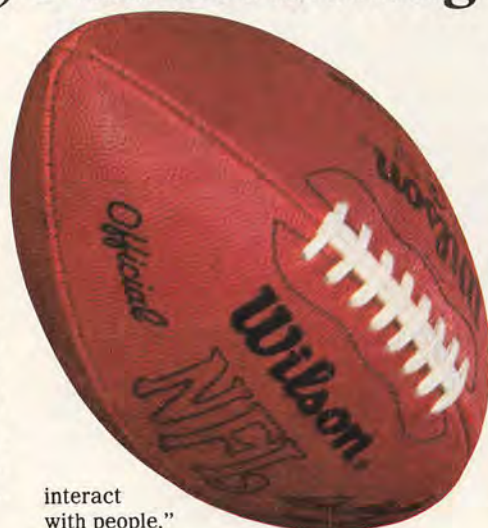
At his home in St. Louis, Bidwill lived with his wife Nancy, five children and several Doberman pinschers. The dogs are dangerous only in their ability to lick a person to death, but they served a well-designed purpose: Keep away from the master of the house.

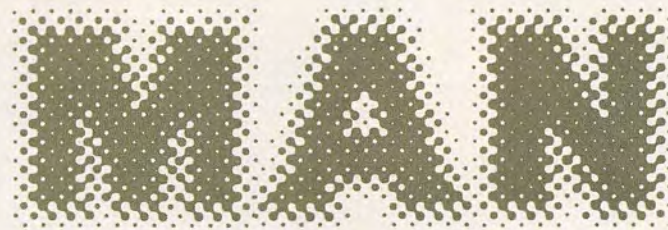
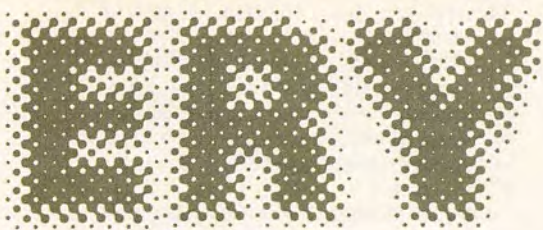
"You could hide under Bill Bidwill's dinner table for a year and not learn a thing," said St. Louis sportscaster Jack Buck, a friend of Bidwill's. "He does not talk about himself or his business. He keeps most of everything inside."

So who is this eccentric man behind the bow tie?

• Friends say he's overly loyal to those who have earned his trust. The shy Bidwill is slow to give himself away to others, but once warmed up is a friend for life. Feisty behavior usually turns him off. In his organization, silent, less-competent employees usually are treated more favorably by Bidwill than aggressive, capable ones. Compliant behavior scores the most points with him.

"There's no question Bill has tremendous loyalty to people with whom he is closely associated," said Thomas J. Guilfoil, Bidwill's attorney and close friend. "And I think that loyalty becomes fierce if those people are under attack from the outside."





Such was the case with Director of Player Personnel George Boone, who became the target of the media and diehard Cardinal fans as the man most responsible for the team's recent history of poor drafts. But Bidwill stood by Boone, even though scouting-department mishaps continued to cost the Cardinals victories and Bidwill considerable credibility with the public.

"I think his loyalty to others has been personally harmful to him," Guilfoil said. "I think he recognizes that. But it has not diminished that loyalty."

● Bidwill is hopelessly moody. He can pass by someone in a hallway and refuse to acknowledge a simple hello; 15 minutes later, he'll be in that same person's office, feet up, telling stories or off-color jokes. At that moment, it's hard to believe that Bidwill is a member of the rich-and-famous NFL

fraternity.

● While he retains a fondness for the players and characters of the Chicago Cardinals era, Bidwill is decidedly unsentimental about modern Cardinals.

Former players often complain about Bidwill's cold shoulder. Jim Otis, the team's second all-time leading rusher, retired in 1978. Several years later, Otis was visiting Busch Stadium when Bidwill and several of his children walked into the team's offices.

"His kids said hello," Otis said, "but Bidwill never said boo." Otis sent a terse letter to Bidwill, saying in part, "What a great example you are setting for your sons . . . you can't even say hello."

All-time Cardinals passing leader Jim Hart, who had a bitter parting with the team in 1984, ran into Bidwill frequently around St. Louis after the split and claimed Bidwill "wouldn't give me eye contact."

Bidwill has refused to retire uniform numbers, which has angered former stars such as Hart and

Dierdorf. The last jersey retired was Larry Wilson's No. 8 in 1972.

"That Air Coryell team of the 1970s won two division titles and had the city of St. Louis excited," Dierdorf said. "I'm not saying that jerseys need to be retired. But there should have been some recognition."

● Bidwill has a wry sense of humor that doesn't always register on the laugh track. For example, when Bidwill met the Phoenix press for the first time, he interrupted his introduction by saying, "If they don't know who I am by now, to hell with them." It was meant in jest, but the room fell silent. So much for first impressions.

Said Bill Jr.: "Some of the things he says go over people's heads. They'll stop and say, 'What a strange comment,' and he won't stop to explain."

● Bidwill has no knack for self-promotion and little feel for public relations. For years, he was a generous contributor to St. Louis charities, but few knew about it. Bidwill would regularly make his contributions anonymously, and resisted any attempt to publicize them. Several of the team's public relations directors went to Bidwill with various plans to improve his image—vital in baseball-crazy St. Louis—but were rejected.

● Bidwill insists on being his own general manager. He oversees every detail in the daily operation of the team, from the assignment of media credentials, to the ordering of souvenir key chains, to the hiring and firing of coaches and scouts, to the supervision of contract negotiations, to the editing of the team's highlight film, to the color of the players' socks on game day.

(True story: Bidwill, disgusted by a lack of uniformity in footwear, once ordered all 45 Cardinals to wear maroon-colored socks for a late-season 1985 game. The socks didn't match the uniform, and the league office outlawed them, but Bidwill had embarrassed the players and made his point).

Only one thing about him is certain: Bill Bidwill is the Cardinals. "Quarrel with Bill on the basis of his professional judgment," Guilfoil said. "But don't say he needs a professional general manager. He is the general manager."

Is Bidwill a good general manager?

"In the back of the Cardinals' press guide is their won-lost record," Dierdorf said. "Draw your own conclusions."

It so happens that the Cardinals are one of the most futile franchises in American sport: They haven't won an NFL playoff game since 1947.

In the four major sports—football, base-



Continued



Before making a series of personal changes, Bill Bidwill sported a moustache and carried a lot of extra weight.

MYSTERY

ball, basketball and hockey—there are 34 professional franchises today that were alive in 1947. Only one, Bidwill's Cardinals, have failed to win a playoff game.

The Bidwill family has owned the team since 1932. After moving to St. Louis from Chicago in 1960, the Cardinals finished below .500 14 times in 28 years and won two division titles (1974 and '75). They are the only team in the NFC East that hasn't appeared in a Super Bowl.

In their final 11 seasons in St. Louis, the Cardinals managed only three winning records. Since Bidwill bought out his brother, Stormy, and assumed full control of the Cardinals in 1972, the franchise is 107-125-4.

★ ★ ★

Bidwill has made some personal changes in recent years. One day in 1987 he called his family into the bathroom and shaved off his 15-year-old moustache.

After years of obesity, Bidwill entered a hospital program and dropped 100 pounds on a liquid diet. His family and friends were stunned by his show of willpower.

"There was no medical problem," Bidwill said. "I just wanted to be able to walk into Brooks Brothers and buy a suit off the rack."

Yet, as he lost the weight, Bidwill continued to wear the same belt. He'd simply walk down to the equipment room every few weeks and have new notches put in.

On the day the Cardinals were given the green light to move, Bidwill traded in his trademark bow tie for a Southwestern-style bola tie. A new Bidwill? Forget it; the old bow tie reappeared the next day.

"It's great if you are a soup eater," Bidwill often jokes.

But the bow tie, no longer fashionable in the 1980s, serves as an appropriate reminder. Bill Bidwill, like his tie, is a throwback to a different time. As long as Bidwill keeps looping it on every morning, the Cardinals' methods of conducting business likely will not change.

The team's scouting department, a long-time funny bone in the NFL, is still under the questionable care of Boone, who has outlived four head coaches since ascending to his job in 1973. Boone, despite a series of horrible No. 1 draft picks, remains a personal favorite of Bidwill and is in no real danger of losing his job.

When the axe falls, it usually comes down on the neck of Cardinals' head coaches—those poor souls who operate at the mercy of Boone drafts that have produced such early-round busts as quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz, kickers John Lee and Steve Little, wide receiver Clyde Duncan and linebacker Anthony Bell. At the end of the 1987 season, only four of the last 13 players selected by Boone in the first three rounds were starters.

"If you are a player or a coach and you don't perform, you're fired," said former Cardinals guard Terry Stieve. "But some guys have the luxury of having more time. Just because a guy is a friend doesn't mean he shouldn't be fired."

"But things remain the same in that organization. The coaches change, the names on the back of the jerseys change. They've been in place for a while, and when a team doesn't win a playoff game the entire time it's in St. Louis, something is wrong."

Current Coach Gene Stallings, like Hanifan, Bud Wilkinson and Don Coryell be-

fore him, grits his teeth over his lack of input in the draft.

Stallings keeps pushing hard, but Bidwill keeps drawing closer to Boone, a deferential sort who won't challenge the boss. And Bidwill doesn't like to be challenged, something that Stallings has been slow to learn.

Bidwill's stubborn sense of loyalty may stem from a traumatic episode in his young adulthood. Bidwill's father, Charles Sr., died in 1947, the year the Cardinals won the NFL championship. When her husband died, Violet Bidwill became the team's owner. She later married businessman Walter Wolfner, and installed her new spouse as managing director of the franchise.

In 1962, Violet Bidwill died, leaving the Cardinals to her sons, Bill and Stormy. Wolfner tried to block the transfer, claiming he had more of a legitimate right to the team because the two sons were adopted.

What?

Bill Bidwill was 30 at the time of Wolfner's lawsuit and had never known he was adopted. And the Bidwill boys, as it turned out, were not biological brothers. It was a second jolt. Bidwill was emotionally crushed.

The subject of his adoption is painful to Bidwill and a taboo subject. His friends are also reluctant to talk about it, but one associate said, "it explains a lot about Bill. Why he's slow to trust, and why he's overly loyal once he comes to trust."

And it explains, perhaps, why Bidwill remains so dogged in his hands-on approach: There will be no surprises that way.

Bidwill still resists the notion that he needs a George Young or a Bobby Beathard to help him make football decisions. Larry Wilson, now the pro personnel director, requires Bidwill's approval before making a token roster move. Attorney Bob Wallace must clear his contract proposals with Bidwill, even if the dollars concern a 12th-round draft choice.

No surprises. No betrayal. No hurt.

"He loves his football team," Dierdorf said. "He would never do it deliberately harm. But Bill doesn't know of another way. That's why everything in the organization must first pass through his desk."

Bidwill does not plan to relinquish any of his responsibilities. The Cardinals have been in his bloodstream since he began working for his late father as a water boy 43 years ago.

Yet the Cardinals haven't won a playoff game since 1947. Except for keeping up with escalating player salaries, Bidwill hasn't made much of an effort to change with the times. A coincidence? Hardly.

If that makes Bidwill a dinosaur, so be it.

"It's a business I enjoy," Bidwill said. "I enjoy the game thoroughly. I've been involved in all areas for a long period of time. I know other businesses, but I like this one best of all."

Said Guilfoil: "He is his own man, his own general manager. And you must admit that he's pretty difficult to fire." ■

Had Enough?



If you're a major football fan, the kind who can't learn enough about your favorite players and teams, then this magazine just whets your appetite for more. Here are three suggestions:

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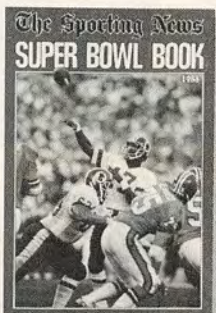
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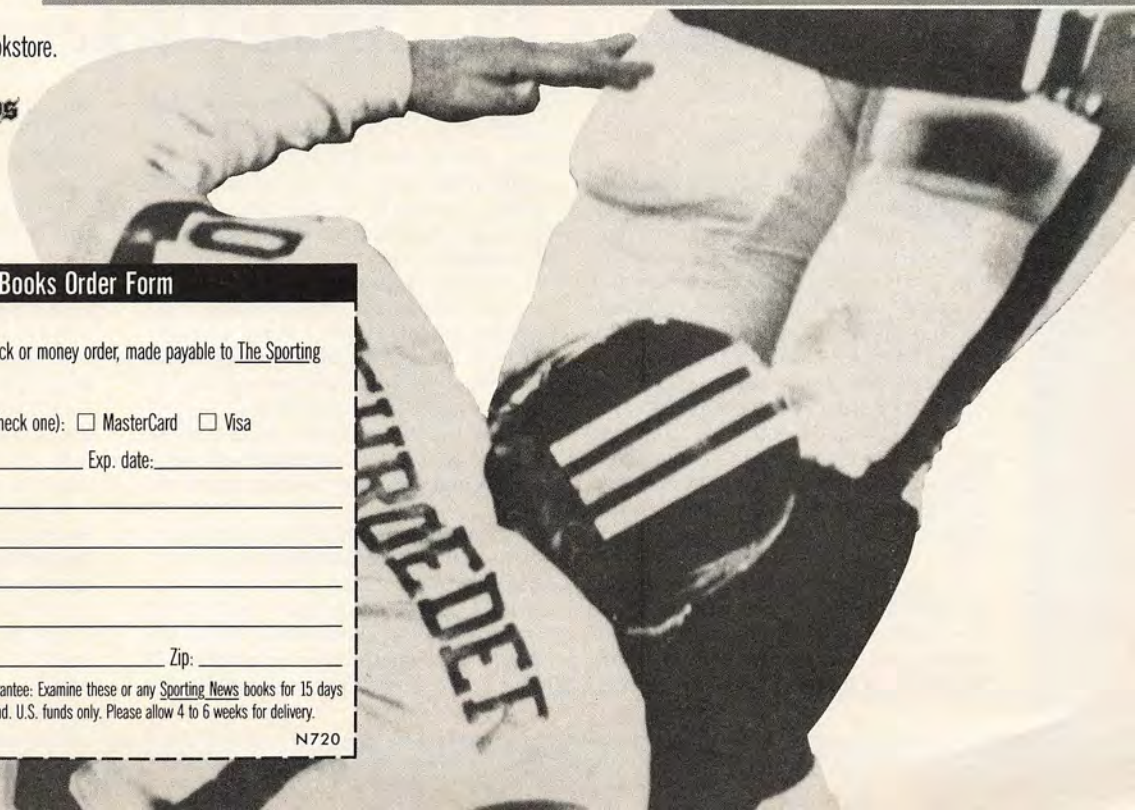
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THE TRADE

Big Deal, Jim Irsay Says, After Orchestrating Crazy Scenario That Made Dickerson a Colt

By VIC CARUCCI
Buffalo Evening News

When it finally was over—the countless coast-to-coast phone calls, the marathon meetings, the second-, third- and fourth-guessing—Jim Irsay rubbed his weary eyes and staggered out of his Indianapolis office. Having spent many hours behind a closed door, he had lost track of what was happening in the outside world.

It was Saturday, October 31, 1987.

The Colts' 29-year-old vice president and general manager was emotionally high and understandably nervous after having put the finishing touches on the biggest trade in recent pro football history.

As complex as it was awe-inspiring, the first leg of the three-way deal saw the Colts ship unsigned rookie line-backer Cornelius Bennett to the Buffalo Bills for a first-round draft pick in 1988,

first- and second-round choices in 1989 and running back Greg Bell. The Colts then sent everything it received from Buffalo, plus their own first- and second-round picks in '88, their second-rounder in '89 and running back Owen Gill, to the Los Angeles Rams for running back-supreme Eric Dickerson.

After the smoke had cleared, Irsay headed for the airport to catch a flight to New Jersey, where the Colts would face the New York Jets the next day. As he walked through the terminal, he was struck by the number of strangely dressed people he encountered raising a ruckus and generally having a good old time.

"I wondered, 'Am I at the right place? Is this some sort of new-wave airport?'" Irsay recalled. "Then, I went up to the ticket counter at the gate and asked, 'What the hell's going on here? Why are all these people dressed so strangely?' The guy behind the counter gave me

kind of a weird look and said, 'Why, sir, it's Halloween.'

"I just shook my head and said, 'Oh.'"

★ ★ ★

From the moment he awoke on Friday, October 30, until hanging up his office phone for the last time the next day, Irsay focused all his attention on putting together what now is simply known as The Trade.

It began with the resumption of on-again, off-again negotiations with Rams Vice President John Shaw. And it continued with a frantic search for a club that would give enough for Bennett to allow the Colts to land Dickerson.

At first, 24 teams were counted in the Bennett Sweepstakes. Ten hours later, that list had been whittled to three. Four more hours and only the Bills remained.

"As the day wore on, things got so crazy, so fanatical, so intense," Irsay said. "It was almost like being in a time zone."



Although nearly six months had passed since the Colts had snagged Bennett with the second overall pick of the National Football League draft, they had not given up on signing the 6-foot-2, 235-pound Alabama product. In fact, Irsay said, the parties were within a couple of weeks of contract agreement when the trade was completed.

"We weren't saying, 'We've got to trade Cornelius Bennett because we can't sign him,'" Irsay said.

It wasn't until after he had heard about Dickerson's contractual problems and that the Rams might be willing to deal him that Irsay pondered the idea of trading Bennett. So, at the fall owners' meetings in Kansas City, Irsay made a Bennett-for-Dickerson proposal to Shaw.

"He didn't seem impressed, so I asked, 'Would you be interested if we were talking about our No. 1 draft pick in 1988, plus whatever we could get for Bennett from another team?' And that seemed to catch his attention."

In a phone conversation shortly after the meetings, Shaw asked Irsay if he could call around the league to see what interest there was in Bennett. Irsay gave him the go-ahead, and Shaw proceeded to ask a few clubs if they'd give up at least one first- and one second-round choice for the outside linebacker many viewed as the second coming of Lawrence Taylor.

On Thursday, October 29, Shaw informed Irsay there weren't any nibbles and that he saw no point in pursuing the matter further.



Indianapolis General Manager Jim Irsay was the man behind The Trade.

"I was kind of surprised and a little disappointed," Irsay said. "So that night I had a lot of trouble sleeping. I kept thinking about it and thinking about it. And when I woke up, at about 5 o'clock the next morning, I just decided I was going to open the bidding to just about every team in the league."

An hour and 45 minutes later, he sat behind his office desk with three telephones lined up in front of him. He then let his fingers do the walking.

Some general managers, such as Bobby Beathard of the Washington Redskins, were shocked that Bennett, whom the Colts had called untouchable, suddenly was wearing a price tag.

"At first, we couldn't get a one and a two," Irsay said. "But as the day wore on, teams started bidding and the price went up."

Meanwhile, at Bills' headquarters in Orchard Park, N.Y., General Manager Bill Polian, Coach Marv Levy and player-personnel directors Bob Ferguson and John Butler discussed just how high they'd go to get Bennett. The Bills had expressed a great deal of interest in the youngster before the '87 draft, in which they originally held the third overall choice.

Polian had called Irsay to ask if the Colts, drafting second, would like to swap first-round picks. Irsay said no but the Bills still waited until Bennett was off the board on Draft Day to consummate a deal with the Houston Oilers that moved the Bills down to the No. 8 slot, where they selected Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan.

At the beginning of the eighth week of the 1987 season, rumors began to fly that a deal was in the works between the Rams, Colts and an unidentified third team. Buffalo officials decided that the mystery club had to be the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. It was a logical assumption. Tampa Bay Coach Ray Perkins had coached Bennett at Alabama, and the

Continued

THE TRADE

Bucs had the bucks that were never used to sign Bo Jackson, the team's No. 1 overall pick of the 1986 draft who opted for a career in baseball.

It also was a wrong assumption, as the Bills would discover the next day. The field was wide open.

"We decided nothing ventured, nothing gained," Polian said. "So I called Bob Terpening (the Colts' assistant general manager) and said, 'If you're going to do anything with Bennett, we want in.' Terp said, 'We're going to trade him, but it's 99 percent certain we won't trade him in the (AFC East) division.'"

At 9 a.m. Thursday, Irsay pulled Colts Coach Ron Meyer away from preparing his team for the Jets and had him start calling his contacts around the league.

Two hours later, Irsay called Polian and told him the minimum price for Bennett was two No. 1 draft picks. Polian said, "We're in," although Irsay was quick to warn him of two things: The price could, and probably would, go up, and, all things being equal, a team outside the AFC East would get preference over the Bills.

The Bills already knew there wouldn't be anyone in the '88 draft to approximate Bennett. Polian asked Butler to check if such also would be the case in '89.

Butler did some fast research and said, "It doesn't look like there are any Cornelius Bennetts in that draft, either, Bill."

At 2 p.m., Irsay called to tell Polian that the price had been raised to include a second-round pick in '89. Polian didn't say yes or no. But he did have a question: "Is Bennett signable?" Irsay then provided the details of a five-year, \$4-million package he was certain Bennett's agent, Richard Woods, would accept.

Polian was not the least bit intimidated by the contract. However, the second-round pick, on top of the two firsts, made the price a little steep.

Soon, all of the Bills' scouting reports on Bennett were scattered all over the desk and tables in Polian's office—along with pizza crust and mountains of cigarette butts, most of which were from the chain-smoking general manager. Polian, Levy, Butler and Ferguson went over every aspect of Bennett's game with a fine-tooth comb.

"We couldn't reach a consensus on whether he was worth it," Polian said. "Finally, I asked, 'What's our objective here? Do we want Cornelius Bennett or do we just want to win the deal?' I think that

changed everybody's focus."

The only other teams besides the Bills still in the running at that point were the Oilers and Minnesota Vikings.

Irsay's next call to Orchard Park came around 5 p.m., when he informed Polian that, in addition to the two No. 1s and the No. 2, the Bills would have to throw in a player. Without the slightest hesitation, Polian mentioned Bell, whom the Bills had been looking to unload since early in the season.

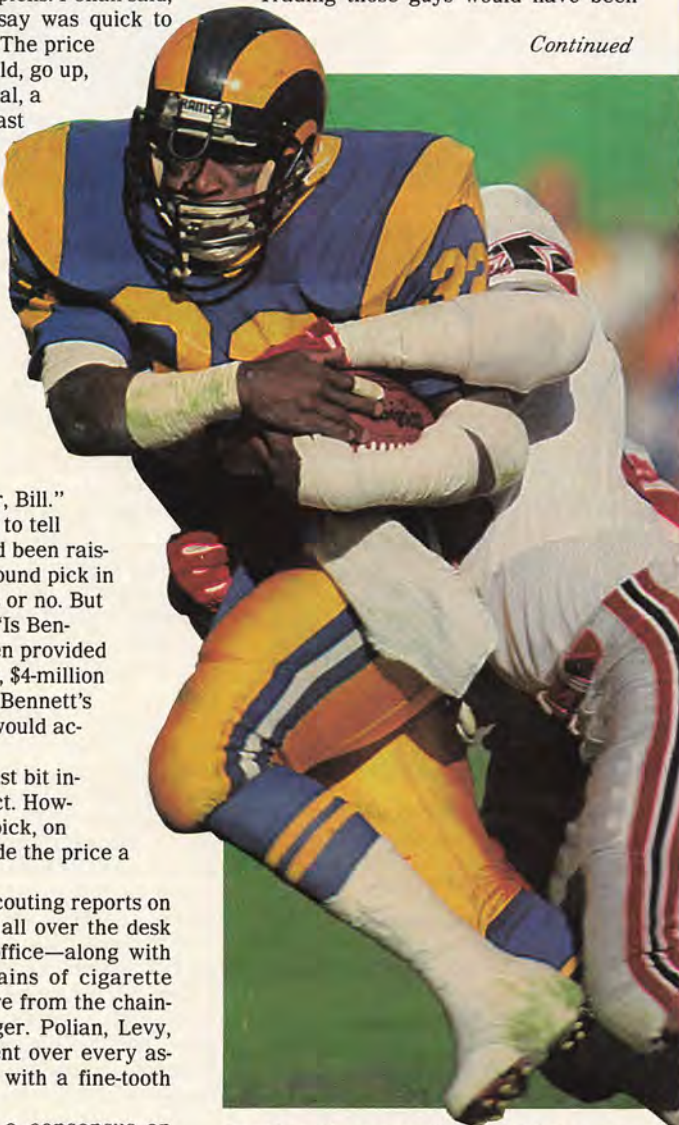
Now, the calls were going back and forth with greater frequency. And in the next 60 minutes, the negotiations would encounter a snag that would threaten to bring The Trade to a screeching halt.

Shaw told Irsay he wasn't interested in the running backs (Bell and Gill) the Bills and Colts were willing to give up. He wanted Ronnie Harmon from the Bills and Albert Bentley from the Colts.

Irsay said that neither he nor Polian, who hit the ceiling when he heard what Shaw was after, would ever give in to such a demand.

"Trading those guys would have been

Continued



In the absence of Eric Dickerson, Charles White (above) took hold of the Rams' running game and led the NFL in rushing.

Bennett

By VIC CARUCCI

Walt Corey was astounded. The Buffalo Bills' defensive coordinator had just put Cornelius Bennett through his first official National Football League practice and he was, to say the least, impressed. The padless, solo workout on the artificial turf at Rich Stadium was designed to give Corey an idea of how well the rookie linebacker from Alabama, whom the Bills had acquired two days earlier from the Indianapolis Colts, could move.

And Bennett, despite having been away from football for more than nine months, gave the veteran coach an eyeful.

"I don't even know if you could call him a diamond in the rough," Corey said. "I think maybe he's just a diamond. The guy's got some great quickness. Geez!"

Bennett would continue to receive that kind of praise over the next eight weeks, the last seven of which he spent as the Bills' starting left outside linebacker.

When the Bills, Rams and Colts completed their deal October 31, Buffalo immediately was labeled a loser in the blockbuster trade. The Bills, critics said, had given up way too much—a first-round draft pick in 1988, first- and second-round choices in 1989 and running back Greg Bell (all of which helped subsidize the Colts' acquisition of Los Angeles Rams running back Eric Dickerson).

By December 27, however, the day the Bills closed their 7-8 season with a 17-7 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, it was being suggested that a spot for Bennett should be reserved in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. That was the day he was credited with 17 tackles, 15 of them solo. He also had four sacks, more than any Buffalo player has had in a game in recent memory, and forced three fumbles.

It is no exaggeration to say Bennett is everything the Colts thought he would be when they made him the No. 2 overall selection of the 1987 draft. Everything and much more.

Although former University of Miami quarterback Vinny Testaverde was the top overall pick and former Penn State star Shane Conlan played well as the Bills' first-round choice, many believe Bennett eventually will be considered the best player to come out of the '87 college crop.

"When you have a chance to get an impact player, you get him," New York Giants scout Chris Mara said. "Because you're not sure when you're ever going to have a chance to get a player like that."

"I think it was a great trade for the Bills," said Ernie Accorsi, executive vice president of the Cleveland Browns. "He's the best outside linebacker since Lawrence Taylor."

Take, for example, Bennett's first NFL appearance as a pass-rush specialist in

Is Buffalo's Diamond in Rough

the Bills' 21-14 November 8 triumph over the Denver Broncos. Thirty minutes after he set foot on the field, he was attracting double-team blocking. And he still managed to sack John Elway, the Broncos' quick-footed quarterback, and make him flee for his life on several other occasions.

"Winning the first game I played in and getting a sack helped build my confidence a whole lot," Bennett recalled. "I wasn't worried about all the things people expected of me, because I expect them from myself."

Bills wide receiver Chris Burkett was so impressed by Bennett that he pulled aside a reporter and said, "I'll tell you what, man, he might make the Pro Bowl this year."

Burkett's prediction proved incorrect, but Bennett, who finished second on the team with 8½ sacks and tied for fifth with 69 tackles, did go on to receive all-rookie honors.

"Cornelius made a real, meaningful contribution immediately, and you just don't expect that from a rookie," Bills Coach Marv Levy said. "You might from a great running back, because a lot of what a runner does is on instinct. But that's

about it.

"Everything that's been said about him as a natural athlete is true. He's flexible, he's got balance, he's got surge.

"He's very quick, yet, as he gets closer, he gets quicker. He's able to get an additional surge. The guy looks like he's running as fast as he can. Then, when he has to run a little bit faster, he does."

In addition to his enormous physical contributions, Bennett:

- Helped Conlan by forcing him to give up his starting job at left outside linebacker to move inside. The new position was a much more natural fit for Conlan, whose 114 tackles made him the first rookie to lead the Bills in that category since Shane Nelson in 1977.

- Improved the performance of right defensive end Bruce Smith. With Bennett drawing so much attention on the left side, opponents couldn't concentrate as much on blocking Smith or running away from him. Consequently, Smith led the Bills with 12 sacks and made his first trip to the Pro Bowl.

- Created an overall good feeling among Buffalo defenders. Left end Sean

McNanie and nose tackle Fred Smerlas were inspired by Bennett's dominance. And with Bennett and Smith drawing so much attention, they had more room to operate.

"As a unit, they feel a little better," Levy said. "No one operates in a vacuum out there. You add a good player to the unit and everybody else gets better."

The acquisition of Bennett is one of three deals consummated by Bills General Manager Bill Polian that have had a major impact on the team.

Two years ago, as Buffalo's director of pro personnel, he took over for ailing General Manager Terry Bledsoe and signed Smith, the No. 1 overall choice of the 1985 draft. In 1986, his first year as general manager, Polian convinced a reluctant quarterback named Jim Kelly to place his signature on a five-year contract after the collapse of the United States Football League.

"We didn't make the trade for Bennett just for 1987," Polian pointed out. "We made it for 1987, and hopefully, for lots of years beyond that. This is another building block in the foundation of a championship team."

The way Polian and the rest of the Bills see it, Bennett, who signed a five-year deal, is their No. 1 pick from the 1988 draft, and that the eight games he played last year were a bonus.

Perhaps the biggest reason Bennett was able to contribute so much so quickly is what he has above his muscular shoulders.

"He's a good learner," Levy said. "He conceives of what you're doing in football very well. He gets a pretty good grasp of the whole picture.

"A lot of what he did last year was on natural instinct and ability, the way Jim Kelly did (in 1986, after he was signed late in the preseason). Now, Jim really knows what we're doing and why we're doing it and that makes him that much better. And we'll know better about how to use Cornelius as he learns more.

"He can get better, and I really believe he will."

One of the few times Bennett has had football problems was in contract negotiations with the Colts. Yet, even though he went unsigned through the first seven weeks of the regular season, he maintained optimism he still would be wearing a Colt uniform in '87.

"I never ever, ever thought about not playing in Indianapolis until the trade talk started," Bennett said. "But I knew I was dealing with tough people. After I missed all that time, it was like I was an item on sale, like I had been marked down in price.

"From the first day dealing with the Bills, everything has been a class act. I like it in Buffalo, I really do." ■



Cornelius Bennett has added a whole new dimension to Buffalo's defense.

THE TRADE

like taking a finger out of one part of the dam and putting it in another," Irsay said.

Around 6 p.m., Shaw backed off from that demand. And the Oilers and Vikings began fading from the picture.

Polian called Irsay to ask if the Bills, after giving up the two first-rounders, the second-rounder and Bell, could get a fourth-round choice back from the Colts.

"I can't do that," Irsay said, reminding Polian of the teams' dealing during the off-season. The Colts had traded offensive tackle Roger Caron to the Bills for an eighth-round pick, but Caron opted instead for retirement. The draft choice was returned to the Bills, even though that wasn't a condition of the agreement.

After another two-and-a-half hour discussion in Polian's office, a decision was reached: Bennett would mean rapid improvement to the Bills' defense, and that, in turn, would shorten the distance to playoff contention.

The price was steep, but the payoff figured to make it bearable.

Then, Polian raised another question: Did Bennett want the Bills?

"I called Woods and asked if Cornelius had any objections to playing in Buffalo," Polian recalled. "Woods said, 'No, none whatsoever. He'd love to play in Buffalo.'"

At roughly the same time, Meyer wondered aloud if Dickerson would leave the fun and sun of Southern California for a less exciting lifestyle in Indianapolis. Meyer wasn't counting on the fact that he had coached Dickerson at Southern Methodist University to override any doubts the veteran running back might have

about joining the Colts. So he called Dickerson himself.

"Indianapolis?" Dickerson said. "Yeah, I'd love it."

"Eric, I've got to tell you," Meyer said, "Indianapolis is not L.A."

"I know it. I'll come."

Dickerson agreed to a four-year, \$5.6-million contract, boarded a redeye flight to Indianapolis, received a medical OK from the Colts' doctors and proceeded on to New Jersey, where, to everyone's surprise, he was in uniform for the Jets' game.

Bennett and his agent arrived in Buffalo early Saturday afternoon. Bennett, too, was given a physical examination that he passed with flying colors.

And The Trade, one of the biggest the NFL has ever seen, was complete.

"It did take some guts, but then again, it doesn't take as much when you know you're getting Eric Dickerson," Irsay said. "It's a proven product. There are rare people who are worth three No. 1s, and Eric's one of them."

"The only possible regret I have is that it's a little disappointing to know that I made the biggest deal of my life . . . and I still have 40 or 50 years in the business not to see something like that ever happen again." ■



The arrival of Cornelius Bennett in Buffalo took a lot of pressure off fellow linebacker Shane Conlan (above).

Only Time

By DON SEEHOLZER
Orange County Register

For the first time in 10 years, the Indianapolis Colts made the playoffs.

For the first time in five, the Los Angeles Rams did not.

Those were the most tangible, short-term results of the blockbuster midseason trade that sent Eric Dickerson from Los Angeles to Indianapolis. But the Rams' day is coming.

Five of the first 47 selections in the April 24-25 NFL draft belonged to the Rams, who by the end of Draft Day '89 will have cashed in three No. 1 picks and three No. 2s from a three-way deal (including Buffalo) that could go down as one of the best or worst in league history.

"I think it's too early to tell," Rams Coach John Robinson said recently. "Until you're able to translate the three 1s and three 2s into players and performance, I think the jury is obviously going to be out."

"But the opportunity that the Rams have over the next two years in the draft is unprecedented. It gives us a chance, if we have good fortune and make the right picks and so on, to parlay that into a team that can be a very powerful one for the next 10 years."

Given the recent draft history of the Rams, who missed big on top picks Mike Schach in 1986 and Donald Evans in '87, L.A. fans can be forgiven for not holding their breath. And the expectations for this coming season are obviously a lot lower than they were a year ago, when the Rams were being billed as a possible Super Bowl team.

Of course, they still had Dickerson then.

"We gave up a great player, no question about that," Robinson agreed. "And he will continue to play at a high level. But we also gave up a player in an area that maybe we can compensate for pretty well."

Sure enough, if there was one thing the Rams proved during last season's 6-9 disaster, it was that they could continue to run the ball even without Dickerson.

In his place, Charles White stepped in to win the NFL rushing title with 1,374 yards and even before the trade the Rams were attempting to move to a more balanced offense utilizing the talents of quarterback Jim Everett.

"Obviously, this hastens that balance," Robinson said, laughing.

"But you know, we still were a solid rushing team the remainder of last year. If we are able, either with our present players or through the draft, to enhance our running game, then we will have weathered the short term."

Long term? Only time will tell. But looking back, it was Dickerson's longstanding unhappiness with his contract that, from a Rams standpoint, made what

Will Tell If Trade Helps Rams



Eric Dickerson sports a different uniform these days, but still wears paths through opposing defenses.

once would have been unthinkable acceptable.

"I think we came to the point that there was a complete breakdown in communication between ourselves and Eric and there just wasn't going to be a successful conclusion to it," Robinson said.

"After a period of time, I don't know if any compromise on either side would have satisfied all the parties. It's like a divorce, I guess. There just became irreconcilable differences.

"At that point, it was affecting our entire team. We felt like the consequences throughout our team were far-reaching. The problems had spread, again like a di-

vorice, through the whole family. Some action had to be taken."

The final straw came October 26 when Dickerson took himself out in the second half of a Monday night game against Cleveland because of what he said was a thigh injury.

After that, the Rams believed something had to give. Dickerson had to go—for the good of the team?

"Ultimately because of that," Robinson said.

"And I don't think it serves any purpose for us to say he was the bad guy or we were the bad guys. I think it just happened. I think a conclusion had to happen

for the good of the team one way or the other. The thing couldn't go on. It reached the point of an impasse."

Initially, at least, it also reached into the locker room and spilled over onto the playing field, where the Rams were whipped in back-to-back games by San Francisco (31-10) and New Orleans (31-14) in the first two games without their all-time leading rusher.

Privately, some players confided that they were relieved to have finally put the issue behind them.

Others, like Pro Bowl cornerback Jerry Gray, admitted that the Dickerson soap opera affected their play.

"I know the Cleveland game probably had to be the worst game that I ever played," Gray said in December.

"I know I was out there playing, but consciously I was probably about 70 percent. I was out there physically but not mentally."

Robinson, for his part, believes any negative trade aftershocks were short-lived.

"I think it allowed us to get back to business, so to speak," he said. "The trade was made on a Friday and we lost that next game convincingly and played poorly again the next week, but then we went on a five-game winning streak after that.

"So I think the team adjusted and went on about its business fairly rapidly. I think it at least allowed us to get back to focusing on winning and getting the best we could out of ourselves."

For the record, the Rams were 1-5 before the Dickerson trade and 5-4 after it, but no one is trying to pin their lost season on him.

"Our failure as a team, there were more factors involved than just one thing," Robinson said.

"We were not playing well before the strike. We were not playing at the level we thought we could. Some of our problems began to fester in training camp, but I don't want to lay all of them off on this one issue. That would not be accurate."

It would not be inaccurate, however, to characterize the Dickerson trade as a case of the Rams taking one step backward in hopes of ending up farther ahead.

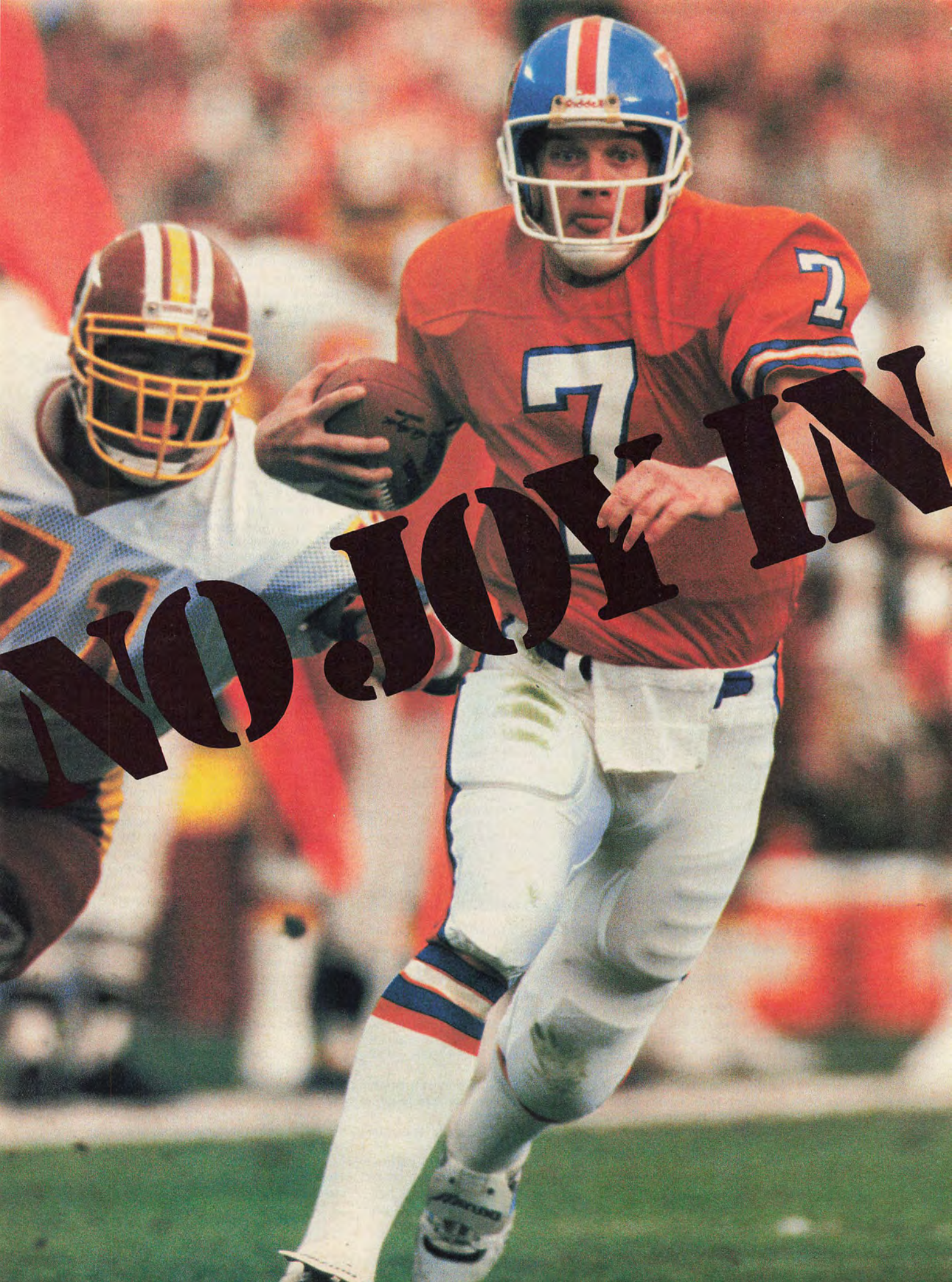
"I suppose the measurement is how big a step backward was it and how big a step forward can it be?" Robinson said.

"There again, we'll just have to wait and see."

For the time being, those are the operative words in any discussion about a trade that ranks among the biggest in NFL history.

"The future will tell," Robinson said. "It might be one of the great deals of all time for the Rams. If those young players do well and if our running game continues to be successful, then the thing will have turned out well for us.

"That's the bottom line." ■



For the Mighty Broncos Have Struck Out

DENVER

Question: How many Denver Broncos does it take to fix a flat tire?

Answer: Just one, unless it's a blowout. Then it takes the whole team.

By JOSEPH SANCHEZ
Denver Post

Humor runs toward crude and insensitive when unforgiving fans try to mask disappointment in the unyielding world of professional football. So discovered the Denver Broncos, who limped back to town last February after an ill-fated date in San Diego, only to find they already had been reduced to a bad joke.

They were something worse than Super Bowl losers.

Dorks, maybe, if that means people who don't know any better than to go out and embarrass themselves in public.

Or worse yet, double dorks, since they should have learned from a similar experience in Pasadena, Calif., the year before.

On a national level, the immediate, postgame perception of the Broncos may have been a little less critical. But probably not much. It's kind of like monitoring the halls at a local junior high school, where you're likely to find the same level of behavior and depth of perception that you get at a football stadium, especially in spontaneous situations.

"I guess following sports for most fans is a pretty superficial thing," observed Jim Saccomano, the public relations director of the Broncos and the man in charge of protecting the team's image as a winner.

"I'm not saying it's right or wrong, but I just don't think most fans make much of an effort to look very deep. You don't hear people say, 'Boy, what a stable, con-

Washington's Super Bowl defense made life miserable for the Broncos and quarterback John Elway.

sistent franchise that team has been over the last 12 years.' What you're more likely to hear is: 'They got blown out in the Super Bowl, what a bunch of bums.'"

You may even hear that kind of insult in supposedly more sophisticated environments. Like when a national network news correspondent took a cheap shot at the city of Denver by saying, "...for a city that has never been No. 1 in anything but air pollution..." The Broncos' loss to Washington was becoming a painful blot on the local image, and politicians and chamber of commerce officials were both mortified and outraged.

The "quality of life" in the Denver area and the breath-taking beauty of the state are resources far too valuable to let some wise-guy journalist get away with that kind of crack, they pointed out. These are hard economic times in Colorado and tourism remains among the leading industries. So the flap between Mayor Federico Pena's office and the CBS News offices in New York went on for several days before the editorial pages of the Denver newspapers finally beat the issue to death.

Ironically, Denver had dropped to seventh in air pollution in the Environmental Protection Agency's most recent study. But that wasn't enough to clean up an already-tarnished image. The situation certainly wasn't eased by Denver's 42-10 loss to Washington in Super Bowl XXII, which, by now, must rank at least third behind its overworked airport and its noxious brown cloud in local embarrassments—probably just ahead of the 39-20 loss to the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXI.

Yes, the Broncos were embarrassed. How could they not be after giving up a record 35 unanswered points in the second quarter when both their offensive and defensive units experienced some kind of psychological paralysis against a Redskins team that was clearly not a dominant force through the National Football League season.

It is doubtful that anybody was more embarrassed than Pat Bowlen, the club owner who had said before the game that if he knew his team would have to endure another blowout, he'd rather not play it. Bowlen later said his feelings had changed, but only after a lot of agonizing.

"In the immortal words of (Denver Coach) Dan Reeves, 'How does it feel to be 0-2 in the Super Bowl? I guess it feels better than 0-0,'" Bowlen said.

"But that kind of loss is a very difficult loss to take, so it's almost a moot point, because in order to find out if you're going to lose the Super Bowl or not, you have to get there, and it's always nice to win that conference championship.

"But," he added, "I feel it's hard on myself, and I think it's even harder on Dan and the rest of the coaches and players from an emotional standpoint to lose a game like that twice in a row."

Image, said Bowlen, is of less concern to him than the self-esteem of his players.

"I think that the team as a whole is a very resilient group," he said, "and by the time we're into next season, those things will be behind us. But it's still a painful process.

"It's a painful process for everybody connected with the team, even the city. I mean I have a lot of sensitive feelings to references on television and in the papers to Denver being No. 1 in smog and stuff like that.

"I guess you feel like you let a lot of people down. We get such fabulous support here—and I'm not just blowing smoke—we get such fantastic support from the entire region, that when you go out and everybody's hopes are so high, not just Pat Bowlen's, and you come up short like we did twice, it's really tough.

"It's like you've got to keep reminding yourself that this is sports and not some natural disaster."

★ ★ ★

On the streets of Minneapolis last October 24, hordes of Minnesota Twins fans partied nervously and noisily in their cars and bars, while their suddenly successful baseball team did battle with the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 6 of the 1987 World Series.

The Denver Broncos were above it all, sort of. They sat quietly in their skyscraper hotel rooms, a little more than 48 hours away from resuming their strike-interrupted football season.

As they waited, the Bronco veterans explained the inevitability of what was happening around them.

"Look guys, the Twins are going to take it to seven games and win the World Series," the rookies were told. "We know that, because for the last four years, some mysterious outside force has attacked us

Continued

DENVER

to the city of the World Series champion. "We were in Detroit the week before the Tigers won it in 1984. We were in Kansas City for a game with the Chiefs in 1985 when the Royals won it. We played in New York the week before the Mets won it in '86. And now, here we are again."

And sure enough, on the Sunday when the Broncos were supposed to be playing the Vikings in the Metrodome, the Twins were closing out the Cardinals to win the city's first world title. The Bronco-Viking game was played the next night.

The morning after the Twins' victory, Minnesota newspapers were filled with relieved columnists, happy to report that their state had finally shed the losers' image that the sports community had hung around its neck after the Vikings had gone 0 for 4 in Super Bowl appearances in the Bud Grant era of the '70s.

"That," snorted Sid Hartman, the longtime Minneapolis sportswriter, "was strictly a sportswriters' thing."

"You know, if some of the sportswriters around this country would set their standards as high for themselves as they do for the teams we cover, we'd sure have a

lot of Pulitzer Prize winners in the press-box."

Sadly, the standards of sportswriting have remained unchanged and it was only a few months later that a whole new generation of sports columnists and other assorted analysts were starting to compare the Broncos to the Vikings. Denver, it was widely observed, had now made three Super Bowl appearances and had been put to rout in all three.

★ ★ ★

It had been almost exactly a year since followers of Colorado Sen. Gary Hart had learned that their man would not be following in the footsteps of Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale, a couple of second-place finishers from, of all places, Minnesota.



The 1988 Democratic presidential race was progressing nicely without Hart, and Mike Harden, the captain of the Denver defense that had collapsed against Washington, was tying the laces of his uncleated lowcuts as he pondered his reaction to a question.

The Bronco cornerback finally decided on indignance.

"Losers image?" he repeated. "Well, let me ask you something: There are 26 other teams in the NFL that would have loved to have gone to San Diego and gotten their asses kicked in the Super Bowl. What are *they*?"

"No, I don't think this team has a losing image or a losing attitude. It takes a helluva lot of talent and a helluva lot of character to get to the Super Bowl in back-to-back years. That's not something just any team can do."

"To say that because we got beat bad in two straight Super Bowls that we've now got some kind of losers image is asinine. There are guys in the Hall of Fame who have never played in the Super Bowl."

A few days later, the offensive captain of the Broncos, quarterback John Elway, was no less outraged, although he admit-

Multi-talented John Elway (left) has been a source of joy for a city that sometimes is consumed by an embarrassing smog problem.



ted it was not the first time he had heard the question.

"I don't know," said Elway. "People who think like that have to be really ignorant to come up with that. They're totally wrong. Are you gonna tell me that there are people who think Bud Grant was a loser or that the Vikings back then were losers?"

"I think most people remember Bud Grant and the Vikings back then as a tough team with a winning image. I guarantee you there were a lot of teams that sure as heck didn't want to play them."

"I mean it amazes me that there are actually people who would think that because you went to the Super Bowl and lose it, you're a loser. To me, that's ridiculous."

Elway, Harden, the Minneapolis sportswriter and Reeves are among the many who do not regard Grant as a loser.

"Bud Grant is going to be in the Hall of Fame some day," promised Harden. "The dumb part is that it'll probably be delayed some because he lost four Super Bowls."

Back in the Broncos' public relations department, Saccomano is well-armed to continue his case in defense of the Denver Broncos.

"You and I and a lot of other people have heard the comparison between us and the Vikings made," he said. "On the other hand, I haven't heard anybody try to put us on the same plane with the Pittsburgh Steelers of a few years back. I haven't heard people say, 'You guys remind me of the Pittsburgh Steelers.' But I

have heard people say, 'You guys remind me of the Minnesota Vikings.'

"So yes, that's something that's obviously there. I don't think it's something that's a problem, something we have to deal with, but it is something that's always annoyed me about the way the American public perceives things. It's like Paul Newman getting eight Academy Award nominations and never winning an Oscar. Are you going to tell me he's a bad actor?"

"I mean you want the Oscar, sure," he added, "but would you rather have won it once and be out of work and forgotten a couple of years later, or would you rather be thought of for years and years as one of the legends of your time?"

"I look at our situation and I'll tell you what. I'd sure rather have our situation than the Jets'."

Besides, he said, if the Broncos are such losers, how come they have the fourth-best NFL record since 1977 at 106-59-1, distinguishing themselves as the winningest team in the league's winningest division, the AFC West?

How come they're the only team in the NFL who can count eight 10-win seasons over that 11-year period?

How come they will have appeared on national television 40 times in the past three seasons, including 12 exposures in 1988? Does the public like to look in on losers?

And how about those three AFC cham-

Continued



Broncos Owner Pat Bowlen feels the pain but refuses to give up on his championship quest.

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pionships? Are those the credentials of losers? Did you know, asked Saccomano, that the Broncos ranked third in official NFL souvenirs sold last year, with only the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants ahead of them?

Something else you probably didn't know is that the Broncos processed more fan mail (13,988 pieces) through the NFL's official fan-mail clearing house than any other team in 1987. A distant second in that department were the Chicago Bears with 7,583 pieces. And get this: Denver processed 3,617 fan letters in February 1987, 1,095 more pieces than the Dallas Cowboys processed all year long.

"It's easy to be positive about this team," said Saccomano, "and I'm probably good for it, because once you get me rolling, I'm like an encyclopedia salesman.

"What makes it so easy," he said, "is I don't have to lie about this team. You name the subject and I've got the numbers to back me up. You want to talk souvenirs, fan mail, won-loss records, television exposure, waiting lists? I've got the figures. Hey, we've never played before anything less than a sellout in Mile High Stadium as an NFL team. You have to go back to 1969 when this was an AFL franchise to find the last time we had seats for sale.

"But if you ask me if we're embarrassed about losing two straight in the Super Bowl, the answer is yes—embarrassed, but not ashamed. Embarrassed that it happened to a great organization and a lot of good people, because I don't care what criteria you want to use—records, staff, quarterbacking, fan mail, attendance, television exposure, who spends the most money on scouting—this franchise is not a loser."

★ ★ ★

It's easy to be negative about a Super Bowl loser and behind the sliding glass doors on the second floor overlooking the Denver Broncos' practice field, the coach of the two-time defending AFC champions still hadn't gotten over his disappointment.

"It's a situation," observed Reeves, "where you walk around and people in the past were genuinely glad to see you. Now, you walk around and people genuinely can't look you in the face. It's like they're embarrassed to say something to you. But that's part of it. That's something you have to live with."

When the Broncos got clobbered in Super Bowl XXI, Reeves reminded everyone, "Nobody remembers who finished second in the Super Bowl, all they remember is who won it."

Reeves was wrong. Two straight Super Bowl losses and now everybody remembers that loss to Dallas back in 1978, too. One more, and the Broncos will have tied

the Vikings for Super Bowl futility—if that's how you choose to look at it.

The Broncos prefer to look at it as tying the Redskins, the Vikings, the Steelers and the Raiders for second-most appearances in the Super Bowl, just one behind Dallas and Miami.

Why not? With the most dominant player in their conference lining up as their

quarterback for at least the next seven seasons, they may even manage that by 1990.

"I think we've proven we're good enough to get there," said Elway. "We just haven't been good enough to win it."

If they ever are, it's probably just going to confuse a lot of adolescent image makers. ■



Denver Coach Dan Reeves is quick to point out that it is better to be 0-2 in the Super Bowl than 0-0.

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Redskins have no plans to sit back and admire Super Bowl XXII trophy

By BRYAN BURWELL
New York Daily News

The quickest way to go from Super Bowl champion to ex-Super Bowl champion always has been to spend more time admiring your handiwork than protecting it.

"The worst mistake a team can make (after winning a Super Bowl) is thinking all its weaknesses have disappeared," said Bobby Beathard, general manager of the world champion Washington Redskins. "You can't start thinking you're better than you are."

So maybe that's what possessed Beathard into breaking the National Football League's greatest unspoken taboo—playing the free-agent game—when he handed unsigned Chicago Bears' Pro Bowl linebacker Wilber Marshall a 5-year, \$6-million contract last February.

Beathard stepped on a lot of toes by doing this. A lot of big toes. Signing free agents just isn't done in the NFL.

That plus several other in-house personnel moves signaled to the rest of the NFC East, pro football's most competitive division, that the Redskins have no fear of retribution from the rest of the league nor any plans to sit back and admire their Super Bowl XXII trophy.

Washington's problem area last season despite winning the championship was a mediocre linebacking corps. So Marshall was signed and 275-pound Markus Koch—who runs a 4.8 in the 40-yard dash—was switched from defensive tackle to middle linebacker. Another experiment finds 6-9, 320-pound offensive tackle Wally Kleine switching to defensive tackle. Kleine is being groomed as the eventual replacement for equally massive Dave Butz, the 6-7, 300-pound 15-year veteran.

Offensively, there was some housecleaning done, too. Running back George Rogers was waived, but four more, including Michigan's Jamie Morris, were drafted. Beathard dangled quarterback Jay Schroeder around the league as trade bait, but reeled him in. The purpose there, perhaps, was to show Schroeder that Head Coach Joe Gibbs wasn't pleased with last year's spoiled-brat routine, when Schroeder went into a slump and was benched in favor of Super Bowl MVP Doug Williams.

The starting quarterback job is Williams' as training camp begins. Deservedly so, the job is his to win or lose. Other jobs are up for grabs, including running back and center. The most secure jobs on the team might be those of defensive ends Charles Mann and Dexter Manley, the Redskins' bookend Pro Bowlers.

Speaking of Mann and Manley, the NFC East, without a doubt, is the home of the most dominant defensive players in the league. Nearly every team has the type of

TSN's Predictions

FINISH	COMMENT
1. N.Y. Giants	With the strike behind them, Giants are ready to reclaim division title. Hopes rest on improved offensive line.
2. Philadelphia	Ground game must find consistency to make leap in standings. Offensive line remains a question mark.
3. Washington	Quarterback controversy could dog Redskins all season and Timmy Smith must show he's a full-season player.
4. Dallas	Offensive line still troublesome and defense shows age. But biggest problem is lack of leadership at quarterback.
5. Phoenix	Even new digs won't help this inconsistent franchise. Defense still not opportunistic enough to dictate tempo.

power defensive player who can disrupt an offensive game plan.

New York Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells hopes the 1988 draft provided him with some offensive weapons to cope with the division's splendid defensive stars.

"I'm out there looking for guys who can fit in specifically to handle guys we play against every week in our division," said Parcells. "It's like in the NBA. Teams draft and trade guys who can help them specifically beat the Lakers or the Celtics in the playoffs."

"I'm always looking for someone who can block a Charles Mann or a Jim Jeffcoat or a Reggie White or a Wilber Marshall. In this division, you'd better be worried about those guys or you won't be going anywhere."

The Giants chose two monstrous offensive tackles in the draft's first two rounds—6-5, 290-pound Eric Moore of Indiana and 6-7, 305-pound John (Jumbo) Elliott of Michigan. But don't expect much from Moore and Elliott this year. Other than quarterback, no position is tougher for a rookie than offensive tackle. Few ever start immediately, even fewer are immediate successes.

The Giants, who collapsed during their defense of Super Bowl XXI, should rebound from last year's showing, but will be hardpressed to hold off the improving Philadelphia Eagles.

Head Coach Buddy Ryan has assembled one of the most promising clubs in the league. The Eagles' record in 12 non-strike games was 7-5, and their running attack ranked fifth in the league (142.4 yards per game), thanks largely to quarterback Randall Cunningham, who led the team in rushing (505 yards) and ranked third in the conference in passing yardage and touchdown passes.

"A lot of people said he'd never be a quarterback in this league," said Ryan. "I'm not just talking about our fans. I'm talking about people in the NFL."

Those same people now realize Cunningham is as big of a run-pass threat as Denver's John Elway. And Cunningham now has the proper supporting cast. Run-

ning back Keith Byars finally is healthy, and receivers Mike Quick, Cris Carter and Gregg Garrity all are extremely dangerous. The addition of first-round draft pick Keith Jackson, a tight end from Oklahoma, gives the Eagles the second-best set of pass catchers in the division behind Washington.

Imagine that, talking that long about the Eagles without even mentioning that Reggie White-led defense. See why Philadelphia could be the NFL's surprise team of 1988?

Dallas Cowboys President/General Manager Tex Schramm was thrilled beyond belief when the team selected wide receiver Michael Irvin of Miami (Fla.) and linebacker Ken Norton of UCLA in the first two rounds of the draft. He said this draft would stop the funeral procession forming around the team.

"It's gonna take more than that draft to stop the death march," one NFL general manager chided.

Yes, indeed, Cowboy bashing continues to be the most popular indoor sport in America. The club was filled with dissension during last year's strike, and the Cowboys were 5-7 in non-strike games. The defensive line remains one of the oldest in the league. Quarterback Danny White hasn't impressed anyone in a long time. Running back Tony Dorsett would rather be anywhere but Dallas this season, and may get his wish.

Thank goodness for Herschel Walker, who began last season playing three positions—fullback, tailback and wide receiver—and wasn't too happy about it. But when he replaced Dorsett as the fulltime tailback for the last seven games of the season, Walker produced at a rate that projected over a 16-game season to an incredible 1,500 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving.

If the Cowboys aren't careful, even the Phoenix Cardinals could pass them by in 1988. Head Coach Gene Stallings had the Cardinals playing much better than most people expected, particularly quarterback Neil Lomax, my vote for NFL comeback player of the year in 1987. ■

Proud Giants have something to prove after ugly, humiliating 1987 campaign

By HANK GOLLA
New York Post

Of all 28 National Football League teams, the New York Giants have the most to prove in 1988.

After three years of improvement (1984-86) that culminated in a 39-20 romp over Denver in Super Bowl XXI, the Giants crash-landed with a 6-9 record last year. It was an ugly season for a proud franchise that had won 33 of its previous 48 regular-season games and had made three straight playoff appearances.

The Giants did not lack for excuses.

The discovery of Hodgkins disease in the chest of tackle Karl Nelson was the first of a chain reaction that weakened the offensive line and stifled the Giants' running game, the foundation of their offense.

Then cornerback Perry Williams was injured late in the preseason, leaving Elvis Patterson to guard the right sideline in the season opener at Chicago. Patterson, so the story goes, was either sick or incapacitated the night before, and Bears quarterback Mike Tomczak took advantage by passing for two touchdowns. Patterson was cut from the team as soon as the plane landed back in New York.

The Giants never really recovered from the 34-19 loss and were beaten at home by the arch-rival Dallas Cowboys the following week, 16-14. The Giants were 0-2 and just a shell of the team that had won 17 of 19 games en route to the Super Bowl title eight months earlier.

The players' strike began September 22. Fielding one of the league's worst replacement teams, the Giants lost their three strike games and dropped to 0-5. And in the last of those forgettable games, against Buffalo, one sure sign that the magic of '86 was gone came when line-backer Lawrence Taylor, one of three Giant regulars to suit up for the game, lined up at tight end for a critical play late in the fourth quarter. Quarterback Jeff Rutledge lofted a pass that looked like a certain touchdown. But Kaulana Park, the Giants' fullback, tried to make the grab instead. He managed only to tip what would have been a victory away from Taylor's hands and the Bills won in overtime, 6-3.

Even though they returned from the strike as the only winless team in the league, the Giants still had an outside chance at making the playoffs. But several games were lost when fourth-quarter leads were squandered, and that was that.

As the Giants prepare for the 1988 season, they are giving every indication that they will be a Super Bowl contender again. In the 1988 draft, the Giants attempted to hit their needs head-on. Obsessed with size, Coach Bill Parcells took the Beef Brothers, Bottom (Indiana's Eric



All-Pro tight end Mark Bavaro will be primed for a big '88 season.

Moore at 6-foot-7, 292 pounds) and Round (Michigan's John Elliott, 6-8, 308) with his first two picks. While neither tackle is penciled in as a starter (William Roberts is the incumbent, Doug Riesenbreg has one year of seasoning and Nelson shows every sign of making a successful comeback), Moore and Elliott are already accomplished pass protectors and that, says General Manager George Young, "is the No. 1 thing you look for coming out of college."

Line play remains a key for this team, especially with Joe Morris as the featured running back. Morris, who rushed for just 658 yards last season after totalling 1,516 in '86, is adept at making quick reads and exploding through holes. He is not the kind of back to break tackles while moving laterally along the line of scrimmage. The Giants, who didn't draft any running backs, mildly shopped Morris in the off-season but couldn't find a deal to their liking.

George Adams split time at fullback with Maurice Carthon last season. While Adams is more versatile, both as a runner and pass receiver, Morris regards the blocking ability of Carthon as a security blanket.

Although Parcells also considered changing secondary coaches, the only staff change he made was to replace receivers coach Pat Hodgson with former Green Bay assistant Tom Coughlin. Coughlin is more of a drill-sargeant type than the easy-going Hodgson, and the Giants have been disappointed with the progress of a steady stream of wide receivers that they have drafted in recent years.

One of Coughlin's first projects will be last year's No. 1 pick, Mark Ingram, who caught only two passes in nine games. By comparison, rookie third-round pick Stephen Baker caught 15 passes and fourth-round pick Odessa Turner nabbed 10.

The Giants didn't help themselves at the position in the draft and even passed up Miami's Michael Irvin to take Moore. The Giants may even get further away from their wide receivers if one of their two tight ends drafted (Danta Whitaker of Mississippi Valley State and Steve Wilkes of Appalachian State) makes the team. That depth would give them the freedom to use more two-tight end formations, teaming All-Pro Mark Bavaro with veteran Zeke Mowatt, who has caught just 13 passes the last two seasons.

Phil Simms, who finished the 1987 season with a quarterback rating of 90.0, his highest ever and second to Joe Montana in the National Conference, would love to open up the passing game again. He threw for 2,230 yards and 17 touchdowns last season after totals of 3,487 and 21 in 1986.

Defensively, the Giants are capable of dominating a game with linebackers Taylor and Carl Banks. No NFL team has a better pair of outside men. They combined for 21 sacks last year.

It is in the middle of the secondary, however, where the Giants are soft. Although he led the team with five interceptions, free safety Terry Kinard never fully came back from knee surgery in 1986 and must prove he can handle the position. Strong safety Kenny Hill has been both-

Continued

ered by bad ankles. Without an effective pass rush, the Giants will give up big chunks of yardage.

Placekicking duties likely will be handled by Raul Allegre, who slumped from 24 field goals and 105 points in 1986 to 17 and 76 last year. Punter Sean Landeta dropped off from his Pro-Bowl form of '86, but still averaged 42.7 yards on 65 kicks.

If the Giants don't make a good run at the Super Bowl in 1988, they'll be feeling the heat from fans, the media and ownership. And there won't likely be a disrupting players' strike to blame for any failings.

Much of the heat will be directed at Parcells, who, after rumors that he might be heading elsewhere, finally signed a new contract worth \$750,000 per year.

Parcells, a coach who demands control of every detail, began to lose some of his grip last season. He'll have to get it back. It shouldn't be that difficult. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5—WASHINGTON (Mon.).....	9:00
Sept. 11—SAN FRANCISCO.....	1:00
Sept. 18—at Dallas.....	3:00
Sept. 25—LOS ANGELES RAMS.....	4:00
Oct. 2—at Washington.....	1:00
Oct. 10—at Philadelphia (Mon.).....	9:00
Oct. 16—DETROIT.....	1:00
Oct. 23—at Atlanta.....	1:00
Oct. 30—at Detroit.....	1:00
Nov. 6—DALLAS.....	1:00
Nov. 13—at Phoenix.....	2:00
Nov. 20—PHILADELPHIA.....	4:00
Nov. 27—at New Orleans.....	7:00
Dec. 4—PHOENIX.....	1:00
Dec. 11—KANSAS CITY.....	1:00
Dec. 18—at New York Jets.....	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(6-9)

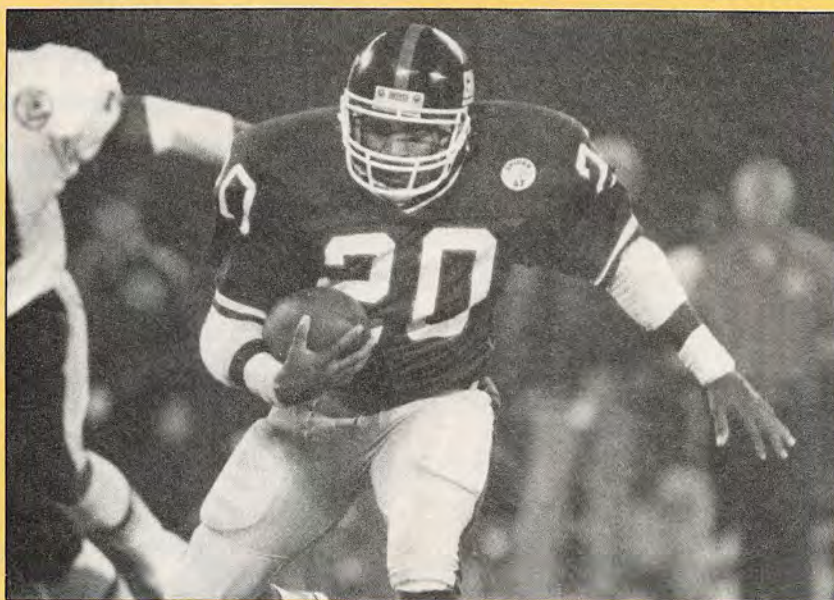
Giants	Opp.	Att.
19 Chicago.....	34 (A)	65,704
14 Dallas.....	16 (H)	73,426
Miami [*]	(A)	
21 San Francisco.....	41 (H)	16,471
12 Washington.....	38 (H)	9,123
3 Buffalo (OT).....	6 (A)	15,737
30 St. Louis.....	7 (H)	74,391
24 Dallas.....	33 (A)	55,730
17 New England.....	10 (H)	73,817
20 Philadelphia.....	17 (A)	66,172
14 New Orleans.....	23 (A)	67,639
19 Washington.....	23 (A)	45,815
23 Philadelphia (OT).....	20 (H)	65,874
24 St. Louis.....	27 (A)	29,623
20 Green Bay.....	10 (H)	51,013
20 New York Jets.....	7 (H)	68,318

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. MOORE, Eric	T	Indiana
2. ELLIOTT, John	T	Michigan
3. WHITE, Sheldon	DB	Miami (O.)
4. SHAW, Ricky	LB	Oklahoma State
5. CARTER, Jon	DE	Pittsburgh
6. HOULE, David	G	Michigan State
7. PEREZ, Mike	QB	San Jose State
7. WHITAKER, Danta	TE	Miss. Valley St.
from Indianapolis		
8. LILLY, Sammy	DB	Georgia Tech
9. Choice to L.A. Raiders		
10. HICKERSON, Eric	DB	Indiana
10. WILKES, Steve	TE	Appalachian St.
from San Diego		
11. HARRIS, Greg	WR	Troy State
12. FUTRELL, David	NT	Brigham Young
12. McCORMACK, Brendan	DT	South Carolina
from Minnesota		



New York Giants running back Joe Morris.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
	Abraham, Robert	LB	6-1	236	6	7-13-60	North Carolina State	*2
33	Adams, George	RB	6-1	255	3	12-22-62	Kentucky	12
2	Allegre, Raul	K	5-10	167	6	6-15-59	Texas	12
24	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	225	10	11-19-57	Miami (Fla.)	4
67	Ard, Bill	G	6-3	270	8	3-12-59	Wake Forest	12
85	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-8	160	2	8-30-64	Fresno State	12
58	†Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	5	8-29-62	Michigan State	12
89	†Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	4	4-28-63	Notre Dame	12
79	Berthussen, Bill	NT	6-5	285	2	6-26-64	Iowa State	*4
69	Black, Mike	T	6-4	280	1	8-24-64	Cal State-Sacramento	2
	Borcky, Dennis	NT	6-3	284	1	9-14-64	Memphis State	2
	Brown, Don	CB	5-11	189	3	11-28-63	Maryland	3
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	260	8	6-7-59	Miami (Fla.)	8
	Byrd, Boris	CB/S	6-0	210	2	4-15-62	Austin Peay	3
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	240	13	11-26-53	South Carolina State	12
44	†Carthon, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	4	4-24-61	Arkansas State	11
21	†Clayton, Harvey	CB	5-9	186	5	4-4-61	Florida State	2
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	3	1-16-64	Fullerton State	11
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	3	8-5-64	Notre Dame	12
28	Flynn, Tom	S	6-0	195	5	3-24-62	Pittsburgh	12
61	†Godfrey, Chris	G	6-3	265	6	5-17-58	Michigan	8
37	Haddix, Wayne	CB	6-1	203	2	7-23-65	Liberty	5
54	†Headen, Andy	LB	6-5	242	6	7-8-60	Clemson	12
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6-0	195	8	7-25-58	Yale	12
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6-3	212	4	4-22-61	West Virginia	*0
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	268	3	11-12-64	Washington State	12
57	Hunt, Byron	LB	6-5	242	8	12-17-58	Southern Methodist	12
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-10	188	2	8-23-65	Michigan State	9
68	†Johnson, Damian	T	6-5	290	3	12-18-62	Kansas State	12
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	3	7-29-64	Ohio State	12
43	Kinard, Terry	S	6-1	200	6	11-24-59	Clemson	12
5	†Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	200	4	1-6-62	Towson State	12
46	Lasker, Greg	S	6-0	200	3	9-28-64	Arkansas	11
46	Manuel, Lionel	WR	5-11	180	5	4-13-62	Pacific	12
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	6	10-22-61	Louisiana State	10
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	255	14	2-16-53	Oregon	12
80	McConkey, Phil	WR	5-10	170	5	2-24-57	Navy	12
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5-7	195	7	9-15-60	Syracuse	11
84	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6-3	240	5	3-5-61	Florida State	12
63	†Nelson, Karl	T	6-6	285	4	6-14-60	Iowa State	*0
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	4	12-16-58	Brigham Young	12
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6-4	234	5	2-18-62	Northwestern (La.) State	10
72	Riesenber, Doug	T	6-5	275	2	7-22-65	California	8
66	†Roberts, William	T	6-5	280	4	8-5-62	Ohio State	12
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5-11	186	4	2-19-62	North Dakota State	5
22	Rouson, Lee	RB	6-1	222	4	10-18-62	Colorado	12
17	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	10	1-22-57	Alabama	13
	Sanders, Charles	RB	6-1	230	3	4-24-64	Slippery Rock	*5
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	9	11-3-56	Morehead State	9
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	8	2-4-59	North Carolina	12
83	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	205	2	10-12-64	Northwestern (La.) State	7
34	†Varajon, Michael	RB	6-1	232	2	7-12-64	Toledo	*3
73	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	3	2-20-63	Oklahoma State	12
27	Welch, Herb	DB	5-11	180	4	1-12-61	UCLA	12
36	White, Adrian	S	6-0	200	2	4-6-64	Florida	6
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	5	5-12-61	North Carolina	10

*Abraham played 2 games with Oilers in '87; Berthussen played 3 games with Bengals, 1 with Giants in '87; Hostetler active for 2 games with Giants in '87, but did not play; Nelson missed '87 season due to illness; Sanders played 5 games with Steelers in '87; Varajon played 3 games with 49ers in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Brad Benson, 10-year tackle, 12 games in '87.

Eagles' offensive stars shine bright, but defensive questions must be answered

By PHIL ANASTASIA
Camden Courier-Post

One of the great ironies of recent Philadelphia Eagle draft history has been the inability of defensive coaches to resist the lure of offensive players.

Marion Campbell was the Eagles' defensive coordinator for nine years before becoming head coach in 1983. But all three of his first-round picks—Michael Haddix, Kenny Jackson and Kevin Allen—were offensive players.

Buddy Ryan spent 18 years coaching and coordinating NFL defenses before he was named the Eagles head coach in 1986. But Ryan's first three drafts have slanted strongly toward the offensive side of the football. The latest example was his selection of Oklahoma tight end Keith Jackson in the first round last spring.

"Maybe now," Ryan said, "we'll score 40 points a game. That way, our defense won't have to be so good."

Ryan was only half kidding.

The Eagles have developed into a team with an impressive array of offensive talent, especially at the so-called "skill" positions. Despite the defensive background of their last three head coaches, the Eagles have spent most of the 1980s stocking up on players who specialize in reaching, not defending, the end zone.

Six of the team's last seven first-round picks were offensive players. In three years Ryan has used two first-round picks, two second-round picks and three third-round picks to acquire athletes to run, block, throw and catch.

"It's a two-fold thing," Eagles offensive coordinator Ted Plumb said. "People say, 'Hey, they only have one football to spread out among all those guys.' But the other side of it is, look at all the talent they have."

"Who is the defense going to double? How are they going to do it? Plus, you have a quarterback that can scramble if something breaks down."

The quarterback is Randall Cunningham, a fourth-year player whose development last season was the key to the Eagles' offensive success. With Cunningham at the controls, the Eagles averaged 25.2 points in 12 non-strike games, their highest mark since 1965.

Cunningham completed 55 percent of his passes for 2,786 yards and 23 touchdowns with only 12 interceptions. He also led the Eagles with 505 yards rushing, becoming the first quarterback to pace his team in that category since Chicago's Bobby Douglass in 1972.

About the only negative with Cunningham's 1987 performance were his 12 fumbles, an NFL-high.

Beyond the stats, Cunningham's poise, leadership and impressive insight into the



Philadelphia Coach Buddy Ryan expects running back Keith Byars to live up to his vast potential.

game were instrumental in the Eagles' 7-5 record in non-strike games.

"Everybody sees his big plays," Ryan said. "But he also does things coaches look for that not everybody else sees when judging improvement—making the right audibles, reading coverages, throwing the ball away when nothing's there."

"I feel good about my play, but now I want to get better," Cunningham said. "When I look around at the people we have on offense, it's hard not to get excited."

The addition of Jackson, a consensus two-time All-America, gives Cunningham a complete and versatile arsenal of offensive weapons at his disposal.

Tops on the list is wide receiver Mike Quick, a five-time selection to the Pro Bowl. Quick caught 46 passes for 790 yards and 11 touchdowns, more than twice as many passes and touchdowns as the Eagles' next most productive wide receiver, Kenny Jackson (21 catches, three touchdowns). Surprisingly, Jackson, just 26 years old, announced his retirement in April after four seasons with the Eagles.

Quick's running mate this season will be second-year man Cris Carter, whom the Eagles nabbed in the fourth round of the September 1987 NFL supplemental draft. Carter was used primarily as a kick returner last season and caught just five passes as a part-time receiver.

Rounding out the receiving corps will be Keith Jackson, whose speed should stretch defenses and discourage double-teaming of Quick and Carter.

"Three teams in our division play mostly man-to-man, and we like the matchup with him on the strong safety," Plumb said. "Plus, he's a complete player. He can block, and that will open up the running game."

Ryan's first two draft choices in '86 as the Eagles' newly appointed coach were a pair of running backs—Keith Byars and Anthony Toney, the latter of whom has developed into an excellent fullback. Toney ran for 473 yards and five touchdowns last season, and also caught 39 passes.

Byars, however, has been slower to emerge, mainly because of recurring foot injuries. In his first two seasons, Byars has rushed for just 1,003 yards and scored only four touchdowns.

"Keith has got to play like we knew he could when we drafted him," Ryan said. "This is the year he's got to come through and show them."

The strength of the Eagles' defense lies in the line, which is manned by three former No. 1 picks.

First and foremost is end Reggie White, who registered an unbelievable 21 sacks in only 12 games last season. White, who demands constant double- and triple-team blocking, might be the best in the game at his position.

The Eagles also have 1987 No. 1 pick Jerome Brown and Mike Pitts, the top pick of Atlanta in 1983, along the defensive line. Brown was hampered last season by an elbow injury that required off-season surgery and had just 49 tackles and four sacks in his rookie year.

Question marks at linebacker and in the secondary, however, make it almost imperative that the line perform well.

The Eagles are hopeful that second-year player Byron Evans, who replaced Mike Reichenbach at middle linebacker late last year, will emerge as a steady contributor. Left outside linebacker Seth Joyner is coming off a good season, but the Eagles want more production from Garry Cobb on the right side.

The secondary needs a return to form by left cornerback Roynell Young, who slipped badly last season. The Eagles are counting on rookie Eric Allen, a No. 2 pick from Arizona State, to take over at right cornerback, a spot shared last year by Elbert Foulkes and William Frizzell.

Perhaps the biggest improvement in the secondary will come if safety Wes Hopkins, a former Pro Bowler, can bounce back from a knee injury that has kept him on the shelf for most of the last two seasons.

Two areas the Eagles' defense must im-

Continued

prove on are its 24 points allowed per game last season—the team's highest average yield since 1973—and a pass defense that ranked last in the league.

Special teams, especially kick returning, is another area that needs improvement. The Eagles ranked last in the league with a 16.8-yard average on kickoff returns and next-to-last with a 5.9-yard punt return average.

Placekicker Paul McFadden (16 of 26 on field-goal attempts) was nearly released by Ryan last year, but the Eagles didn't draft any kickers in the spring so McFadden's job appears safe for now.

The punting should again be handled by John Teltschik, who averaged 38.2 yards on an NFL-high 82 punts. Teltschik also kicked a league-record 15 punts in one game against the Giants in December, a feat the Eagles' coaching staff hopes will not be repeated. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Sept. 11—CINCINNATI	4:00
Sept. 18—at Washington	1:00
Sept. 25—at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 2—HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 10—NEW YORK GIANTS (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 16—at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 23—DALLAS	1:00
Oct. 30—ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 6—LOS ANGELES RAMS	1:00
Nov. 13—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 20—at New York Giants	4:00
Nov. 27—PHOENIX	1:00
Dec. 4—WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 10—at Phoenix (Sat.)	2:00
Dec. 18—at Dallas	12:00

1987 RESULTS—(7-8)

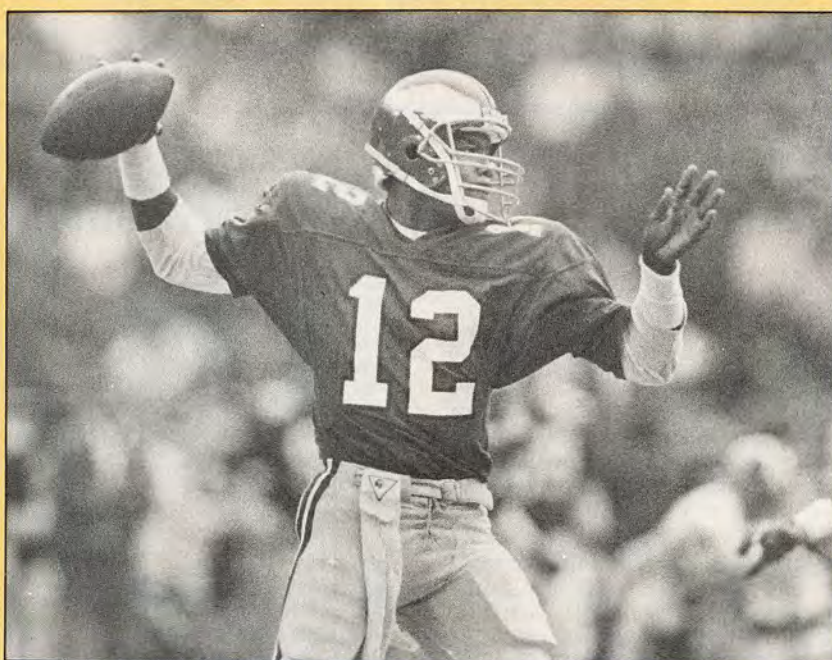
Eagles	Opp.	Att.
24 Washington	34 (A)	52,128
27 New Orleans	17 (H)	57,485
San Francisco*	(A)	
3 Chicago	35 (H)	4,073
22 Dallas	41 (A)	40,622
10 Green Bay (OT)	16 (A)	35,842
37 Dallas	20 (H)	61,630
28 St. Louis	23 (A)	24,586
31 Washington	27 (H)	63,609
17 New York Giants	20 (H)	66,172
19 St. Louis	31 (H)	55,592
34 New England (OT)	31 (A)	54,198
20 New York Giants (OT)	23 (A)	65,874
10 Miami	28 (H)	63,841
38 New York Jets	27 (A)	30,752
17 Buffalo	7 (H)	57,547

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. JACKSON, Keith	TE	Oklahoma
2. ALLEN, Eric	DB	Arizona State
from Tampa Bay		
2. Choice to San Francisco		
through Tampa Bay		
3. PATCHAN, Matt	T	Miami (Fla.)
4. Choice exercised		
in 1987 Supplemental Draft		
for Cris Carter, WR, Ohio State		
5. EVERETT, Eric	DB	Texas Tech
6. McPHERSON, Don	QB	Syracuse
6. STERLING, Rob	DB	Maine
from Cleveland		
7. WHITE, Todd	WR	Fullerton State
8. SMITH, David	RB	West. Kentucky
9. Choice to Detroit		
10. SCHUSTER, Joe	DT	Iowa
11. JENKINS, Izel	DB	North Caro. St.
12. KAUFUST, Steve	DE	Brigham Young



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
72	Alexander, David	T	6-3	275	2	7-28-64	Tulsa	12
58	Allert, Ty	LB	6-2	233	3	7-23-63	Texas	10
87	Bailey, Eric	TE	6-5	240	2	5-12-63	Kansas State	3
63	†Baker, Ron	G	6-4	274	11	11-19-54	Oklahoma State	10
23	†Brown, Cedrick	CB	5-10	182	2	9-6-64	Washington State	12
99	Brown, Jerome	DT	6-2	288	2	2-4-65	Miami (Fla.)	12
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	238	3	10-14-63	Ohio State	10
80	Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	194	2	11-25-65	Ohio State	9
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	210	11	10-27-56	Pittsburgh	3
27	Clemmons, Topper	RB	5-11	205	2	9-16-63	Wake Forest	3
50	†Cobb, Garry	LB	6-2	230	10	3-16-57	Southern California	12
79	†Conwell, Joe	T	6-5	286	3	2-24-61	North Carolina	12
21	Cooper, Evan	S	5-11	194	5	6-28-62	Michigan	12
45	Crawford, Charles	RB	6-2	243	2	3-8-64	Oklahoma State	2
12	†Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	201	4	3-27-63	Nevada-Las Vegas	12
78	Darwin, Matt	T	6-4	275	3	3-11-63	Texas A&M	12
93	Dumbauld, Jonathan	DE	6-4	259	3	2-14-63	Kentucky	6
56	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	225	2	2-23-64	Arizona	12
67	Feehery, Gerry	C	6-2	270	6	3-9-60	Syracuse	12
29	Foules, Elbert	CB	5-11	193	6	7-4-61	Alcorn State	9
33	Fruzzell, William	S	6-3	205	5	9-8-62	North Carolina Central	12
86	Garrity, Gregg	WR	5-10	169	6	11-24-61	Penn State	12
38	Gary, Russell	S	5-11	200	8	7-31-59	Nebraska	12
83	†Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	240	12	11-8-54	Alcorn State	12
90	Golic, Mike	DE/DT	6-5	275	3	12-12-62	Notre Dame	12
26	Haddix, Michael	RB	6-2	227	6	12-27-61	Mississippi State	12
34	†Hoage, Terry	S	6-3	201	5	4-11-62	Georgia	11
	Hoggard, D.D.	CB	6-0	188	3	5-20-61	North Carolina State	12
48	Hopkins, Wes	S	6-1	212	5	9-26-61	Southern Methodist	12
53	†Jiles, Dwayne	LB	6-4	250	4	11-23-61	Texas Tech	9
54	Johnson, Alonzo	LB	6-3	222	3	4-4-63	Florida	3
85	Johnson, Ron	WR	6-3	186	4	9-21-58	Long Beach State	3
59	†Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	248	3	11-18-64	Texas-El Paso	12
64	Kelley, Mike	G/C	6-5	280	3	2-27-62	Notre Dame	12
97	Klingel, John	DE	6-3	267	2	12-21-63	Kentucky	5
65	†Landsee, Bob	G/C	6-4	273	2	3-21-64	Wisconsin	2
89	†Little, Dave	TE	6-2	226	5	4-18-61	Middle Tennessee State	12
8	†McFadden, Paul	K	5-11	166	5	9-24-61	Youngstown State	12
36	Morse, Bobby	RB/KR	5-10	213	2	10-3-65	Michigan State	11
74	Pitts, Mike	DT	6-5	277	6	9-25-60	Alabama	12
82	Quick, Mike	WR	6-2	190	7	5-14-59	North Carolina State	12
66	†Reeves, Ken	T/G	6-5	270	4	10-4-61	Texas A&M	10
55	Reichenbach, Mike	LB	6-2	230	5	9-14-61	East Stroudsburg	11
76	Schreiber, Adam	G	6-4	277	5	2-20-62	Texas	12
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	276	3	8-4-64	Western Carolina	12
68	Singleary, Reggie	G	6-3	280	3	1-17-64	North Carolina State	12
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6-4	242	9	8-1-57	Yale	12
37	Tautalatasi, Junior	RB	5-10	210	3	3-24-62	Washington State	12
10	Teltschik, John	P	6-2	209	3	3-8-64	Texas	12
25	Toney, Anthony	RB	6-0	227	3	9-23-62	Texas A&M	11
20	Waters, Andre	S	5-11	199	5	3-10-62	Cheyney	12
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	285	4	12-19-61	Tennessee	12
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	185	9	12-1-57	Alcorn State	11

*Allert played 3 games with Chargers, 7 with Eagles in '87; Giles played 4 games with Lions, 8 with Eagles in '87; Golic played 2 games with Oilers, 6 with Eagles in '87; Hopkins missed '87 season due to injury; Hoggard played 1 game with Browns in '87; Kelley played 1 game with Oilers and inactive for 3 games with Eagles in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Super Bowl champs will look different when they take the field in 1988

By TOM FRIEND
Washington Post

When last seen, the Washington Redskins were visiting their neighbor, Ronald Reagan, and tossing a football around in his backyard. The occasion was a celebration of the Redskins' 42-10 conquest of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXII. Quarterback Doug Williams, the Super Bowl MVP, was propped up on crutches, so Reagan grabbed a ball himself and hit Ricky Sanders on a timing pattern across the White House lawn. A band played "Hail To The Redskins," not "Hail To The Chief."

Since then, Williams' left knee has healed, so Reagan must return to the sideline, where he'll find Jay Schroeder waiting, too.

At quarterback, the 1988 Redskins should look strikingly similar to the 1987 edition—Williams ahead of Schroeder on the depth chart—but Williams' weak left knee keeps his status in limbo. That's one reason the Redskins didn't trade Schroeder in the off-season. Another was Williams' trick back. Can he last a whole 16-game season at age 33?

"Obviously, anyone would be stupid to think that," Coach Joe Gibbs said.

On the other hand, Washington should look strikingly different this season at kicker, punter, running back and linebacker. Generally, defending Super Bowl champs stand pat for chemistry's sake, but the Redskins rarely had chemistry last season, except for that record 35-point second quarter in the Super Bowl. The kicking and punting games were a joke at times, and a different running back was getting hurt every week. The need at linebacker was so desperate that Owner Jack Kent Cooke spent \$6 million to wrest free-agent Wilber Marshall from the Chicago Bears.

If complacency is a fatal flaw for defending champs, it won't be a problem here. Williams and Schroeder will duke it out in training camp. Marshall will put the heat on incumbent linebackers Monte Coleman and Mel Kaufman. Timmy Smith and Kelvin Bryant will battle it out at running back now that George Rogers is gone. Former All-Pro guard Russ Grimm begins training camp on the bench. Second-round draft pick Chip Lohmiller, a kicker from Minnesota, begins camp as the favorite over veterans Ali Haji-Sheikh and Jess Atkinson. And 12th-round punter Wayne Ross (San Diego State) will compare hang-times with incumbent Steve Cox.

And so on. Third-round draft pick Mike Oliphant (Puget Sound) runs the 40 in 4.38 and should be the new punt returner (so long, Eric Yarber). Fourth-rounder Jamie Morris (Michigan) should be the insur-



Ricky Sanders is young and ready to claim his spot in Washington's talented receiver corps.

ance running back (sayonara, Keith Griffin). Gibbs and General Manager Bobby Beathard say the key to 1988 is health and attitude, and few Redskins ought to be cozy at this point.

Whereas the Giants and Bears were supposed dynasties after their respective Super Bowl victories, the Redskins haven't heard the word dynasty once, perhaps a mini-blessing.

"I don't think we consider ourselves a dominant football team," said Gibbs, whose regular squad won 11 of 15 games a year ago.

All signs point to a stronger, swifter team, starting with Marshall, the first NFL free agent to switch teams in 11 years. Including his signing bonus, he'll earn \$1.2 million this season, but he doesn't show the flash of a Lawrence Taylor so much as he shows the speed of a Darrell Green. Marshall admits he's not a blitz, but an extravagant cover guy who can stick with a wide receiver if need be. He can blitz, too, but the Redskins likely won't send him more than they send Coleman or Kaufman.

The signing of Marshall could cause problems off the field, however. He now makes three times the salary of defensive end Dexter Manley, and dissension can easily creep up on the first and 15th of every month when Manley rips open his paychecks. Gibbs, for one, doesn't anticipate a problem, and players already were

playfully calling Marshall, "Steve Austin, The Six Million Dollar Man" at minicamp.

Marshall is not bionic, but the Redskins need him to bolster their linebacking corps, a glaring weakness. Defensive lineman Markus Koch will be tried in the middle, as incumbent Neal Olkewicz quietly moves into his 30s, and Coleman and Kaufman are entering their 10th and eighth NFL seasons, respectively. Second-year linebackers Kurt Gouveia and Ravin Caldwell saw increased playing time late last season. It's conceivable that the Redskins could have a brand new linebacking trio: Marshall (right side), Gouveia (middle) and Caldwell (left side).

The secondary of Darrell Green, Barry Wilburn, Todd Bowles and Alvin Walton may be Washington's best ever, and off the bench comes strong cover guy Brian Davis and big hitter Clarence Vaughn. Wilburn led the league with nine interceptions.

With pass-rushing defensive ends Manley and Charles Mann and tackles Dave Butz and Darryl Grant, the Redskins have a foursome that combined for 23 sacks a year ago. Butz, however, will be 38 years old by the start of the season and Washington needs to find an heir apparent.

On offense, the Redskins have become less run-oriented in recent years and that trend is likely to continue. Wide receivers Art Monk and Gary Clark (a combined 94 catches and 13 touchdowns last season) are Pro Bowlers, and Sanders (37 receptions, three touchdowns) may be better than both. Gibbs has always liked a two-tight end alignment, but three wideouts may be employed 90 percent of the time.

"We'd be amiss if we weren't spending time with (a three-wide receiver attack)," Gibbs said. "I don't think anybody can be much better than we are at receiver."

The hope in the backfield is that Smith's 204-yard rushing performance in the Super Bowl was not an illusion, but some of Rogers' friends say George could've had a 200-yard day, too, with those holes. Smith rushed for only 126 yards in part-time duty (seven games, no starts) in the regular season.

Bryant's problem has been his durability. In two seasons with the Redskins, he's missed seven games and been lame for many more because of injuries.

The Hogs—tackles Mark May and Joe Jacoby, guards Raleigh McKenzie and R.C. Thieleman and center Jeff Bostic—dug through the Broncos with ease, and that again should be the starting unit. However, Grimm, injured midway through the season, should be a starter by opening day.

Unquestionably, the team leader is Williams. Schroeder may run faster and throw farther, but Williams has the re-

Continued

spect of his teammates for waiting and waiting in the pocket for receivers to come open, and then taking the inevitable hit while throwing the ball. Beathard has said Williams has "something special" that keeps the team going, and the city of Washington has adopted him as their own.

After the Super Bowl, for instance, the city staged a "Doug Williams Day," but he'd already promised to be with his daughter in Louisiana and couldn't attend. He felt badly, but a public official told him: "That's OK, Doug. Washington and Lincoln never show up for President's Day." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5—at New York Giants (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 11—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Sept. 18—PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Sept. 25—at Phoenix	1:00
Oct. 2—NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Oct. 9—at Dallas	12:00
Oct. 16—PHOENIX	1:00
Oct. 23—vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Oct. 30—at Houston	7:00
Nov. 6—NEW ORLEANS	4:00
Nov. 13—CHICAGO	1:00
Nov. 21—at San Francisco (Mon.)	6:00
Nov. 27—CLEVELAND	1:00
Dec. 4—at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 11—DALLAS	1:00
Dec. 17—at Cincinnati (Sat.)	12:30

1987 RESULTS—(14-4)

Redskins	Opp.	Att.
34 Philadelphia	24 (H)	52,128
20 Atlanta	21 (A)	50,882
New England*	(H)	
28 St. Louis	21 (H)	27,728
38 New York Giants	12 (A)	9,123
13 Dallas	7 (A)	60,415
17 New York Jets	16 (H)	53,497
27 Buffalo	7 (A)	71,640
27 Philadelphia	31 (A)	63,609
20 Detroit	13 (H)	53,593
26 L.A. Rams	30 (H)	53,614
23 New York Giants	19 (H)	45,815
34 St. Louis	17 (A)	31,324
24 Dallas	20 (H)	54,882
21 Miami	23 (A)	65,715
27 Minnesota (OT)	24 (A)	59,166

NFC SEMIFINAL GAME

21 Chicago	17 (A)	66,030
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NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

17 Minnesota	10 (H)	55,212
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NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

42 Denver	10 (†)	73,302
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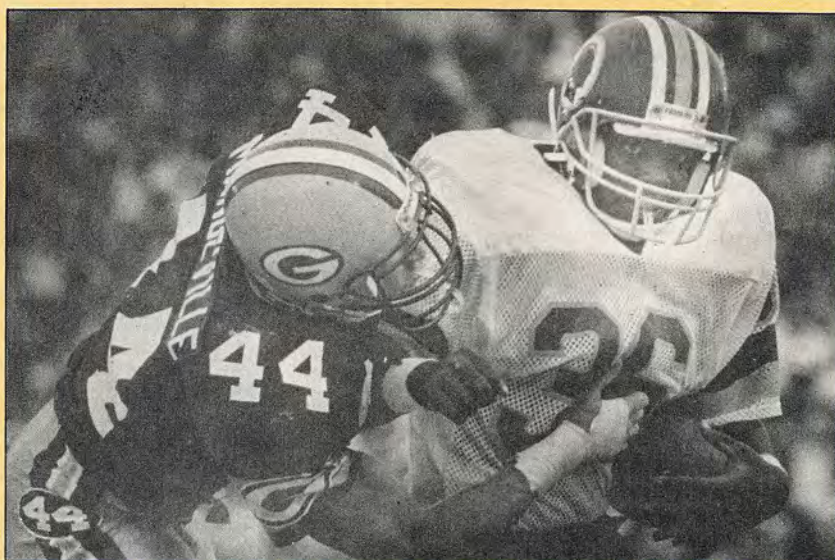
*Game cancelled due to strike.

(†) Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, Calif.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice to Chicago		
2. LOHMILLER, Chip	K	Minnesota
3. OLIPHANT, Mike	KR	Puget Sound
from L.A. Rams		
3. Choice to L.A. Rams		
4. MORRIS, Jamie	RB	Michigan
5. MIMS, Carl	DB	Sam H'ston St.
from New England		
5. Choice to L.A. Rams		
6. HUMPHRIES, Stan	QB	N.E. Louisiana
from Indianapolis		
6. Choice to L.A. Rams		
7. HICKS, Harold	DB	San Diego St.
8. MCGILL, Darryl	RB	Wake Forest
9. PETERSON, Blake	LB	Mesa, Colo.
10. BROWN, Henry	T	Ohio State
11. KOCH, Curt	DE	Colorado
12. ROSS, Wayne	P	San Diego St.
from L.A. Rams		
12. Choice to L.A. Rams		



Washington Redskins running back Timmy Smith.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
89	Allen, Anthony	RB	5-11	182	4	6-29-59	Washington	3
4	Atkinson, Jess	K	5-9	168	2	12-11-61	Maryland	1
95	†Benish, Dan	DT	6-5	275	6	11-21-60	Clemson	3
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	260	9	9-18-58	Clemson	12
23	Bowles, Todd	S	6-2	203	3	11-18-63	Temple	12
29	†Branch, Reggie	RB	5-11	235	3	10-22-62	East Carolina	12
65	Briz, Darrick	G	6-3	264	2	2-14-64	Oregon State	7
24	Bryant, Kelvin	RB	6-2	195	3	9-26-60	North Carolina	11
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	295	15	6-23-50	Purdue	12
50	Caldwell, Ravin	LB	6-3	229	2	8-4-63	Arkansas	12
88	Caravello, Joe	TE	6-3	270	2	6-6-63	Tulane	11
	Carlson, Mark	T	6-6	284	2	6-6-63	Southern Conn. State	3
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	173	4	5-1-62	James Madison	12
51	†Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	10	11-4-57	Central Arkansas	12
56	†Copeland, Anthony	LB	6-2	250	2	4-14-63	Louisville	3
12	Cox, Steve	P/K	6-4	195	8	5-11-58	Arkansas	12
	Coyte, Eric	C	6-3	260	2	10-26-63	Colorado	3
34	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	190	2	8-31-63	Nebraska	7
86	†Didier, Clint	TE	6-5	240	7	4-4-59	Portland State	9
48	Gage, Steve	S	6-3	210	2	5-10-64	Tulsa	4
	Gehring, Mark	TE	6-4	235	2	4-16-64	Eastern Washington	*6
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	2	9-14-64	Brigham Young	11
77	†Grant, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	8	11-22-59	Rice	12
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	6	2-15-60	Texas A&I	12
35	†Griffin, Keith	RB	5-8	185	5	10-26-61	Miami (Fla.)	9
68	†Grimm, Russ	C/G	6-3	275	8	5-2-59	Pittsburgh	6
6	†Haji-Sheikh, Ali	K	6-0	172	5	1-11-61	Michigan	11
78	Hamel, Dean	DT	6-3	290	4	7-7-61	Tulsa	12
64	†Hamilton, Steve	DE/DT	6-4	270	4	9-28-61	East Carolina	12
	Hitchcock, Ray	C/G	6-2	289	2	6-20-65	Minnesota	5
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	305	8	7-6-59	Louisville	12
21	Jessie, Tim	RB	5-11	190	2	3-1-63	Auburn	3
82	Jones, Anthony	TE	6-3	248	4	5-16-60	Wichita State	2
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6-2	230	7	2-24-58	Cal Poly-SLO	12
61	Kehr, Rick	G	6-3	285	2	6-18-59	Carthage	5
74	Koch, Markus	DE	6-5	275	3	2-13-63	Boise State	12
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	257	8	2-2-59	Oklahoma State	11
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	270	6	4-12-61	Nevada-Reno	12
58	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	225	5	4-18-62	Florida	*12
73	May, Mark	T	6-6	295	8	11-2-59	Pittsburgh	10
	McEwen, Craig	TE	6-1	220	2	12-16-65	Utah	4
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	G	6-2	275	4	2-8-63	Tennessee	12
60	McQuaid, Dan	T	6-7	278	3	10-4-60	Nevada-Las Vegas	1
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	9	12-5-57	Syracuse	9
52	†Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	233	10	1-30-57	Maryland	10
87	†Or, Terry	TE	6-3	227	3	9-27-61	Texas	10
11	†Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	2	10-2-62	Washington State	*0
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	3	8-30-62	Southwest Texas State	12
10	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	5	6-28-61	UCLA	11
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	280	2	12-31-63	Eastern Washington	5
36	Smith, Timmy	RB	5-11	216	2	1-21-64	Texas Tech	7
69	†Thielemann, R.C.	G	6-4	272	12	8-12-55	Arkansas	12
	Thompson, Gary	DB	6-0	180	3	2-23-59	San Jose State	1
31	Vaughn, Clarence	S	6-0	202	2	7-17-64	Northern Illinois	5
40	Walton, Alvin	S	6-0	180	3	3-14-64	Kansas	12
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	10	5-5-56	San Diego State	12
45	†Wilburn, Barry	CB	6-3	186	4	12-9-63	Mississippi	12
17	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	220	8	8-9-55	Grambling State	5
46	Woodberry, Dennis	CB	5-10	183	3	4-22-61	Southern Arkansas	12
80	Yarber, Eric	WR/KR	5-8	156	2	9-22-63	Idaho	12

*Gehring played 6 games with Oilers in '87; Marshall played 12 games with Bears in '87; Rypien active for 1 game with Redskins in '87, but did not play.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

The Herschel Walker era begins as struggling Cowboys revamp offense

By JIM DENT
Dallas Times Herald

Call it the Herschel era, or the year when the Cowboys will be run by a Walker. It is no secret, and it opens this autumn.

Returning to the chalkboard, and his handy IBM computer, Coach Tom Landry redesigned the Dallas Cowboys offense during the off-season around the hands and feet of Herschel Walker. No more San Francisco-style offense. No more dreaming of their glory days of the 1970s.

"We will be more of a running team and it will be because of Herschel," Landry said. "We had gotten away from the run some, but now we have the offensive line pretty well intact and we just feel that we can move the ball on the ground."

With quarterback Steve Pelluer passing only 52 times in last season's final two games, Dallas easily defeated the Rams and Cardinals, knocking both teams out of the playoffs. Walker started the final seven games at running back last year and averaged 94 yards rushing and 63 yards receiving. Prorating those seven-game figures into a 16-game schedule, Walker would have totaled 2,512 yards. Only one player—San Francisco's Roger Craig in 1985—has ever gained more than 1,000 yards both rushing and receiving in a season.

But Walker is the only NFL player to gain more than 700 yards in both categories for two consecutive seasons. When Landry dropped the Walker-Tony Dorsett backfield in the eighth game last season, he had his mind set on the Cowboys' future offense. In effect, Landry was saying goodbye to the Dorsett years and hello to the Walker era.

Dorsett, the NFL's fourth all-time rushing leader with 12,036 yards, has likely played his last game with the Cowboys.

The Dallas management can only hope better things are around the corner. Not since the early 1960s have the Cowboys so needed a shot in the arm. Cowboys fans are not accustomed to two straight losing seasons, not to mention three non-playoff seasons in the last four years. The team has won just seven games each of the last two years.

"If we're going to lose this year, I'm going to get all of the blame," Landry said. "That's why I'm going back to running the offense."

Landry had focused most of his attention the previous two years on the defense, allowing Paul Hackett—a former 49ers assistant—to plan most of the offensive strategy.

The first question concerns Pelluer's ability to play a 16-game season. He's been primarily a backup to Danny White the last three seasons, and Landry noted Pelluer had trouble overcoming bad times



Dallas' redesigned offense will revolve around the powerful legs of Herschel Walker.

in 1986 when White broke his right wrist. Under Pelluer the Cowboys won only one of their final eight games that season. Given a second chance in the final two games last year, Pelluer revived Landry's hopes.

"After those two games (29-21 and 21-16 victories), we started leaning toward Steve," Landry said. "I think he can handle the kind of offense that we'll be running this year. I think we will have to think of Steve as our future at quarterback."

The promotion of Pelluer will leave the 36-year-old White in a backup role. But White has already given every indication that that will not be satisfactory.

"If this team is going to be the best it can be right now, then I need to be the No. 1 quarterback," White said. "I feel that Coach Landry has underestimated me in the past, and he is underestimating me now. My job is to show him that my wrist is OK."

Landry said he wants to avoid the problems created last season by White's errant throws, including 17 interceptions. Even White, who threw just 12 touchdown passes, admitted that he didn't always know where the ball was going when it left his hand.

The starting signal-caller will be

operating behind an offensive line that allowed 52 sacks last year. Left tackle Daryle Smith, who replaced injured Mark Tuinei in the Minnesota game and virtually stopped All-Pro pass rusher Chris Doleman of the Vikings, is perhaps the best Dallas lineman. He didn't allow Washington's Dexter Manley to get a sack the week after shutting down Doleman. If left guard Nate Newton can keep his weight down, Landry still believes he has All-Pro potential. But Newton's weight ballooned to 354 pounds in March, leading to serious doubts about his desire to play in the NFL.

Tom Rafferty, who will be 34 at the start of the season, is expected to be the starting center. Crawford Ker continues to improve at right guard and offensive line coach Jim Erkenbeck holds high hopes for 308-pound right tackle Kevin Gogan, who started 10 games a year ago.

Landry has many options at wide receiver. Mike Renfro, who caught 46 passes but only four for touchdowns, may have trouble holding onto his job with No. 1 draft choice Michael Irvin (Miami, Fla.) on the scene. Irvin was the toast of the town on draft day, when the Cowboys sweated his availability until the 11th pick of the first round. Landry said Irvin was the Cowboys' top-rated player in the entire draft.

Landry also thinks Irvin has better potential than Mike Sherrard, a former No. 1 pick who has twice fractured the same leg and is not expected to play again until 1989.

There are many questions about the defensive line, perennially a team strength. Ed Jones, who had a team-leading 10 sacks in 1987, is 37 years old and may be one year from retirement. Randy White, now 35, must overcome a disc problem in his neck that threatens his career. White will miss most of training camp and defensive coordinator Ernie Stautner said he expects Danny Noonan, last year's No. 1 draft choice, to replace him in the starting lineup. Left tackle Kevin Brooks led all linemen with 67 tackles and had three sacks in his first season as a starter.

Landry said middle linebacker Eugene Lockhart was having a Pro Bowl year until he broke his leg three weeks before the end of the season. Veteran left linebacker Mike Hegman will be challenged for his starting job by No. 2 draft choice Ken Norton Jr. (UCLA). Right linebacker Jeff Rohrer may be the team's most improved defensive player.

Cornerback Everson Walls hasn't been to the Pro Bowl in two years, mainly because of a drop in interceptions (he's had eight the last two seasons), but the coaching staff believes he is now a better all-around player. The Cowboys, who led the league with 106 interceptions from 1981 to '85, no longer emphasize interceptions as

Continued

they did with ex-secondary coach Gene Stallings, now the Phoenix head coach.

Right cornerback Ron Francis, a rookie last year, is a good tackler, but at 5-foot-9, still has trouble with taller receivers.

There are many questions about the free safety position. Mike Downs became a free agent and Victor Scott was suspended for 30 days last season. Scott was sent to an East Coast clinic for drug testing and returned to Dallas a week later. One of the toughest hitters in the game, strong safety Bill Bates, is an over-achiever who manages to compensate for his lack of speed with his brain. He may be challenged for his starting job by Vince Albritton, another fierce tackler.

The Cowboys are lucky to have kicker Roger Ruzek, who was second in the league in field-goal percentage, connecting on 22 of 25 attempts (.880 percent). Ruzek was released in training camp, but re-signed after another tryout.

Punter Mike Saxon tied for first in the NFL with 20 kicks inside the 20-yard line, but still finished ninth in the NFC with a 39.5-yard average. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Pittsburgh.....	1:00
Sept. 12—at Phoenix (Mon.).....	6:00
Sept. 18—NEW YORK GIANTS.....	3:00
Sept. 25—ATLANTA.....	12:00
Oct. 3—at New Orleans (Mon.).....	8:00
Oct. 9—WASHINGTON.....	12:00
Oct. 16—at Chicago.....	12:00
Oct. 23—at Philadelphia.....	1:00
Oct. 30—PHOENIX.....	12:00
Nov. 6—at New York Giants.....	1:00
Nov. 13—MINNESOTA.....	7:00
Nov. 20—CINCINNATI.....	12:00
Nov. 24—HOUSTON (Thanksgiving).....	3:00
Dec. 4—at Cleveland.....	1:00
Dec. 11—at Washington.....	1:00
Dec. 18—PHILADELPHIA.....	12:00

1987 RESULTS—(7-8)

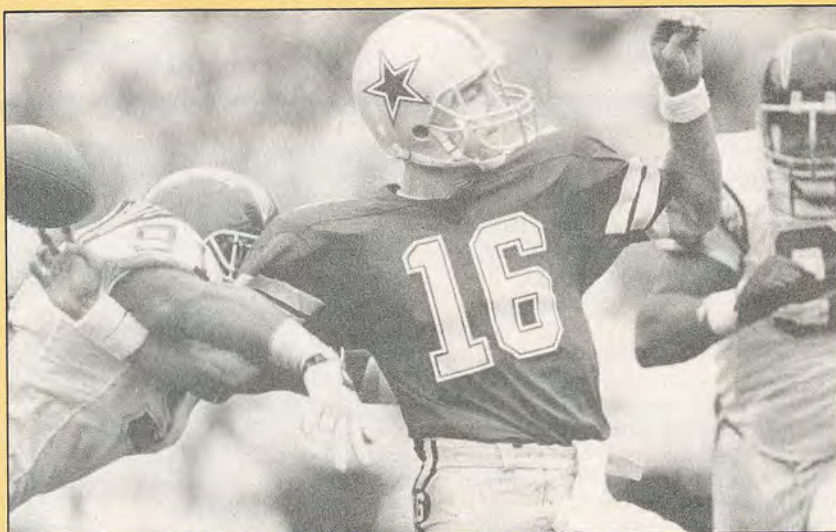
Cowboys	Opp.	Att.
13 St. Louis.....	24 (A)	47,241
16 New York Giants.....	14 (A)	73,426
Buffalo.....	(H)	
38 New York Jets.....	24 (A)	12,370
41 Philadelphia.....	22 (H)	40,622
7 Washington.....	13 (H)	60,415
20 Philadelphia.....	37 (A)	61,630
33 New York Giants.....	24 (H)	55,730
17 Detroit.....	27 (A)	45,325
23 New England (OT).....	17 (A)	60,567
14 Miami.....	20 (H)	56,519
38 Minnesota (OT).....	44 (H)	54,229
10 Atlanta.....	21 (H)	40,103
20 Washington.....	24 (A)	54,882
29 Los Angeles Rams.....	21 (A)	60,700
21 St. Louis.....	16 (H)	36,788

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. IRVIN, Michael	WR	Miami (Fla.)
2. NORTON, Ken	LB	UCLA
3. HUTSON, Mark	G	Oklahoma
4. WIDELL, Dave	T	Boston College
5. Choice to Phoenix through Seattle		
6. SECULES, Scott	QB	Virginia
7. HOOVEN, Owen	T	Oregon State
8. HIGGS, Mark	RB	Kentucky
9. BEDFORD, Brian	WR	California
10. OWENS, Billy	DB	Pittsburgh
11. HENNINGS, Chad	DE	Air Force
12. HUMMEL, Ben	LB	UCLA



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Steve Pelluer.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
36	Albritton, Vince	S	6-2	217	5	7-23-62	Washington	11
2	Alexander, Ray	WR	6-4	196	2	1-8-62	Florida A&M	*0
87	Banks, Gordon	WR	5-10	170	6	3-12-58	Stanford	5
80	Barksdale, Rod	WR	6-1	193	3	9-8-62	Arizona	12
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	199	6	6-6-61	Tennessee	12
99	Brooks, Kevin	DE	6-6	278	4	2-9-63	Michigan	13
15	Burbage, Cornell	WR	5-10	181	2	2-22-65	Kentucky	3
57	Burton, Ron	LB	6-1	245	2	5-2-64	North Carolina	12
85	Chandler, Thornton	TE	6-5	242	3	11-27-63	Alabama	12
70	Cisowski, Steve	T	6-5	275	2	1-23-63	Santa Clara	3
42	Clack, Darryl	RB	5-10	220	3	10-29-63	Arizona State	12
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	241	10	3-27-56	Santa Clara	12
55	†DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	249	5	11-22-62	Boston College	11
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	188	12	4-7-54	Pittsburgh	12
26	†Downs, Michael	S	6-3	212	8	6-9-59	Rice	12
81	Edwards, Kelvin	WR	6-2	205	3	7-19-64	Liberty	13
85	Folsom, Steve	TE	6-5	236	3	3-21-58	Utah	9
46	Fowler, Todd	RB	6-3	222	4	6-9-62	Stephen F. Austin	12
38	Francis, Ron	CB	5-9	199	2	4-7-64	Baylor	11
66	Gogan, Kevin	T	6-7	310	2	11-2-64	Washington	11
27	Haynes, Tommy	S	6-0	190	2	2-6-63	Southern California	3
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	226	13	1-17-53	Tennessee State	10
45	Hendrix, Manny	CB/S	5-10	181	3	10-20-64	Utah	12
52	Hurd, Jeff	LB	6-2	245	2	5-25-64	Kansas State	5
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6-2	222	3	9-16-63	Florida State	3
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	263	6	4-1-61	Arizona State	12
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	275	14	2-23-51	Tennessee State	15
68	Ker, Crawford	G	6-3	283	4	5-5-62	Florida	12
67	Lilja, George	C	6-4	282	7	3-3-58	Michigan	5
56	Lockhart, Eugene	LB	6-2	230	5	3-8-61	Houston	9
83	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	163	2	5-14-65	Boston College	7
14	†McDonald, Paul	QB	6-2	182	9	2-23-58	Southern California	*0
30	Newsome, Timmy	RB	6-1	235	9	5-17-58	Winston-Salem State	11
67	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	315	3	12-20-61	Florida A&M	11
73	Noonan, Danny	DT	6-4	270	2	7-14-65	Nebraska	11
16	Pelluer, Steve	QB	6-4	208	5	7-29-62	Washington	12
59	Penn, Jesse	LB	6-3	224	4	9-6-62	Virginia Tech	11
64	Rafferty, Tom	C	6-3	263	13	8-2-54	Penn State	12
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	11	6-19-55	Texas Christian	14
50	Rohrer, Jeff	LB	6-2	222	7	12-25-58	Yale	12
9	Ruzek, Roger	K	6-1	190	2	12-17-60	Weber State	12
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	193	4	7-10-62	San Diego State	12
22	Scott, Victor	CB/S	6-0	203	5	6-1-62	Colorado	6
	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	2	6-21-63	UCLA	*0
60	Smerek, Don	DT	6-7	266	7	12-10-57	Nevada-Reno	8
79	Smith, Daryle	T	6-5	278	2	1-18-64	Tennessee	9
19	Sweeney, Kevin	QB	6-0	193	2	11-16-63	Fresno State	3
63	Titensor, Glen	G	6-4	275	7	2-21-58	Brigham Young	*0
71	Tuinei, Mark	C	6-5	282	6	3-31-60	Hawaii	8
95	Walen, Mark	DT	6-5	262	2	3-10-63	UCLA	9
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	225	3	3-3-62	Georgia	12
24	Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	192	8	12-28-59	Grambling	12
94	Watts, Randy	DE	6-6	305	2	6-22-63	Catawba	5
65	White, Bob	T	6-5	267	2	4-9-63	Rhode Island	4
11	White, Danny	QB	6-3	198	13	2-9-52	Arizona State	11
37	White, Gerald	RB	5-11	223	2	12-9-64	Michigan	3
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	263	14	1-15-53	Maryland	15
23	Williams, Robert	CB/S	5-10	195	2	10-2-62	Baylor	11
	Wright, Charles	DB	5-9	178	2	4-5-64	Tulsa	*3
76	Zimmerman, Jeff	T	6-3	316	2	1-10-65	Florida	11

*Alexander, Sherrard and Titensor missed '87 season due to injury; McDonald active for 12 games with Cowboys in '87, but did not play; Wright played 3 games with Cardinals in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Kurt Petersen, 7-year guard, missed '87 season due to injury; Phil Pozderac, 6-year tackle, 2 games in '87.

Cardinals hope an improved defense, new home will add up to better results

By LLOYD HERBERG
Arizona Republic

No champagne corks were popped when the Cardinals' front-office brain trust completed its inaugural college draft in Phoenix.

"No champagne," the club's director of player personnel, George Boone, told the press in that Bluegrass twang of his. "Just huntin' some Kentucky tea as soon as you let me go."

Word from the Cardinals is the hunting was better this year in the Arizona desert than it had been in the hills of Missouri. After 28 National Football League seasons in St. Louis, the Cardinals will play the 1988 season in Phoenix, actually Tempe, Ariz., a suburb of Phoenix and home of Arizona State University. Club Owner Bill Bidwill, who tried and failed for three years to have a new stadium built in St. Louis, signed a 30-year lease to play at Sun Devil Stadium on the ASU campus. The lease includes an escape clause that would allow the Cardinals to move into a domed stadium that is proposed for downtown Phoenix.

Caught in the middle of all this is Gene Stallings, the team's fifth coach since 1977 and the man who must try to reverse the fortunes of the only franchise in the four major professional sports (football, baseball, basketball and hockey) that was in existence four decades ago and has not won a playoff game since that time.

Entering his third season, Stallings has earned respect after bringing his Cardinals within a win (7-8) of the playoffs last year in a strike-disrupted season.

An edge comes to his voice, however, when the franchise's history of failure is noted. The Cardinals have not won a playoff game since 1947 and have finished above .500 only three times since 1977. Coaches come and go in this organization but the front office largely remains the same.

"You're talking history," Stallings says with a cold stare. "I don't deal with what happened before."

"We're not a bad football team. All I know is this football team has improved ever since I've had it and there's no reason to believe it's not going to continue."

Certainly, the Cardinals will be dealing from a new position of monetary strength after their move from St. Louis. They had the lowest gross income in the NFL over the last five years but now will be close to the top. Only time will tell whether more money can turn a perennial loser into a winner.

Bidwill immediately scored some public relations points in his new hometown when he signed Neil Lomax, his Pro Bowl quarterback, for four years at \$5.7 million. Lomax was handsomely rewarded for a 1987 season in which he led the NFL in



The big gun in the Cardinals' offense is quarterback Neil Lomax.

passing yardage (3,387) and threw for 24 touchdowns in 12 games.

"The reason the Cardinals played well last year was basically the season Neil had," Stallings said. The Cardinals' offense ranked No. 6 overall in the NFL a year ago and had the second fewest turnovers in the league (27).

To improve, the Cardinals will have to do a better job protecting Lomax, who was sacked 48 times in 12 games. Another Pro Bowl season from left tackle Luis Sharpe wouldn't hurt, either. Sharpe, entering his seventh NFL season, is the anchor of an offensive line that includes right tackle Tootie Robbins, guards Lance Smith and Todd Peat and center Derek Kennard. Peat, an 11th-round draft pick a year ago, played well as a rookie after beating out veteran Joe Bostic for a starting spot midway through the season.

The Cards' best rookie a year ago, however, was tight end Robert Awalt, who caught 42 passes for 526 yards and six touchdowns. Awalt, who was named The Sporting News' NFL Rookie of the Year, filled a gaping hole in the offense and is probably the Cardinals' best tight end since Jackie Smith a decade ago.

Phoenix can only hope that this year's seventh-round draft pick, Ernie Jones of Indiana, will contribute as much as Awalt. Jones, the Big Ten's offensive player of the year, is 6-foot, 185 pounds and would have been drafted higher had a slight knee sprain not kept him out of pre-draft

workouts. Jones is a possession receiver along the lines of veteran J.T. Smith, who led the NFL with 91 receptions last year.

But Smith, who did not get a Pro Bowl invitation despite having 23 more catches than any other player, will turn 33 this season, his 11th in the NFL.

The Cardinals also need a return to form by Roy Green, who has averaged just 45 catches and five touchdowns the last three years after catching 156 passes for 26 touchdowns in 1983 and '84.

The Cardinals' most versatile offensive performer likely will be running back Stump Mitchell, who rushed for 781 yards and caught 45 passes for 397 more in '87. Mitchell's running mate will be fullback Earl Ferrell, who had 774 combined yards last season. Derrick McAdoo, who rushed for 230 yards as a rookie in '87 and Tony Jeffery, a second-round pick from Texas Christian, also figure to see plenty of playing time.

The punting game should be improved with the addition of third-round choice Tom Tupa (Ohio State), who led the nation with a 47-yard average last year. Tupa also was the Buckeyes' quarterback and could save the Cardinals a roster spot as a backup signal-caller, too.

The Achilles heel of this team is defense. The Cardinals surrendered 30 touchdown passes last year, allowed an average of 23.9 points in the 12 non-strike games and finished 25th overall in both total defense and pass defense.

Stallings wants a better rush from his front seven, more turnovers and avoidance of the big play. The Cardinals had 41 sacks, forced 33 turnovers and allowed the opposition to convert a whopping 46.1 percent of its third-down attempts.

The Cardinals used their first-round pick on California linebacker Ken Harvey, a 6-2, 230-pounder who the Cardinals hope can do the job that linebackers Freddie Joe Nunn and Anthony Bell, the team's No. 1 choices in 1985 and '86, failed to do. Stallings prefers the 4-3 defense, with an injury-free David Galloway at defensive end and E.J. Junior, the team's best linebacker, on the outside, where he is an effective blitzer. The coaches have been forced to use Galloway, when healthy, on the nose and Junior at an inside linebacking spot because Nunn and Bell have been unable to play there. Nunn has since been moved to end and led the team with 11 sacks last year.

"The key is how do you get your best front seven on the field," said linebacker coach Joe Pascale, "and that will determine what we play."

The secondary is probably the strongest part of the defense. Strong safety Leonard Smith is the Cards' best defensive player and free safety Lonnie Young is underrated. The starting cornerback

Continued

tandem of Carl Carter and Cedric Mack gives up far too many big plays.

Tupa will be given every chance to beat out incumbent punter Greg Horne. If he doesn't, Cardinals fans are sure to recall Boone's waste of a second-round pick two years ago on former UCLA All-America John Lee, who was supposed to have been the answer to the team's chronic place-kicking woes. He wasn't. Former Packer Al Del Greco (9 of 15 field-goal attempts in '87) has the job for now.

One factor that may become somewhat of an advantage for the Cardinals in 1988 is one they have absolutely no control over—the climate. The Arizona desert can get mighty hot in the summer and fall and the Cardinal players—once they become acclimated—should have an advantage over their opponents.

"If any of them have religious beliefs," said former Arizona State Coach Frank Kush, "they'll think they're in hell and must atone for their sins." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Cincinnati.....	1:00
Sept. 12—DALLAS (Mon.).....	6:00
Sept. 18—at Tampa Bay.....	1:00
Sept. 25—WASHINGTON.....	1:00
Oct. 2—at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
Oct. 9—PITTSBURGH.....	1:00
Oct. 16—at Washington.....	1:00
Oct. 23—CLEVELAND.....	1:00
Oct. 30—at Dallas.....	12:00
Nov. 6—SAN FRANCISCO.....	2:00
Nov. 13—NEW YORK GIANTS.....	2:00
Nov. 20—at Houston.....	12:00
Nov. 27—at Philadelphia.....	1:00
Dec. 4—at New York Giants.....	1:00
Dec. 10—PHILADELPHIA (Sat.).....	2:00
Dec. 18—GREEN BAY.....	2:00

1987 RESULTS—(7-8)

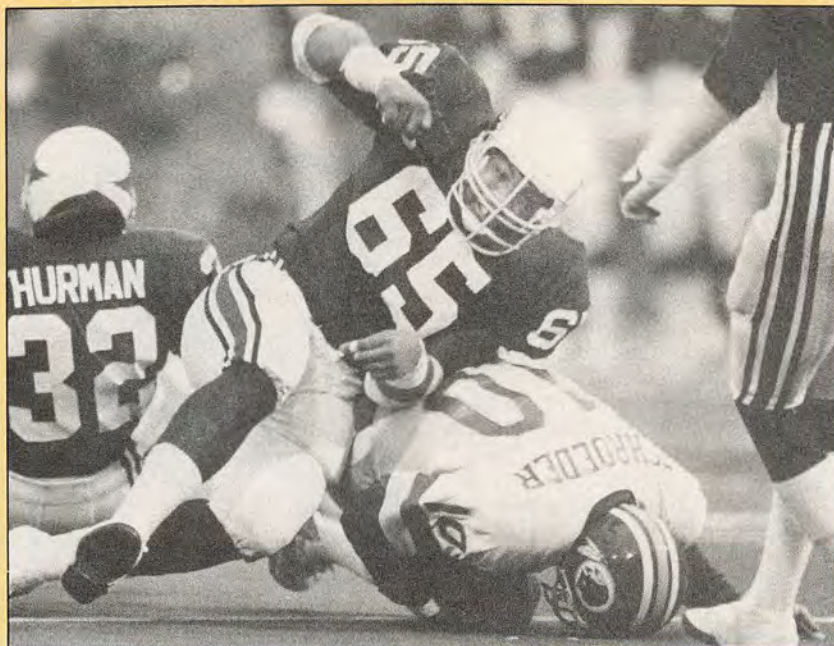
Cardinals	Opp.	Att.
24 Dallas.....	13 (H)	47,241
24 San Diego.....	28 (A)	47,988
Indianapolis.....	(H)	
21 Washington.....	28 (A)	27,728
24 New Orleans.....	19 (H)	11,795
28 San Francisco.....	34 (A)	38,094
7 New York Giants.....	30 (A)	74,391
23 Philadelphia.....	28 (H)	24,586
31 Tampa Bay.....	28 (H)	22,449
24 L.A. Rams.....	27 (H)	27,730
31 Philadelphia.....	19 (A)	55,592
34 Atlanta.....	21 (A)	15,909
17 Washington.....	34 (H)	31,324
27 New York Giants.....	24 (H)	29,623
31 Tampa Bay.....	14 (A)	32,046
16 Dallas.....	21 (A)	36,788

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. HARVEY, Ken	LB	California
2. JEFFERY, Tony	RB	Texas Christian
3. TUPA, Tom	P	Ohio State
4. BRIM, Michael	DB	Virginia Union
5. GAINES, Chris	LB	Vanderbilt
from Dallas through Seattle		
5. Choice to Pittsburgh		
5. JORDAN, Tony	RB	Kansas State
from Cleveland		
6. PHILLIPS, Jon	G	Oklahoma
7. JONES, Ernie	WR	Indiana
8. MOORE, Tim	LB	Michigan State
9. DILL, Scott	G	Memphis State
10. SCHILLINGER, Andy	WR	Miami (O.)
11. McCoy, Keith	DB	Fresno State
12. CARRIER, Chris	DB	Louisiana State



Phoenix Cardinals defensive end David Galloway.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
60	Alvord, Steve	DT	6-4	272	2	10- 2-64	Washington	12
80	Awalt, Robert	TE	6-5	248	2	4- 9-64	San Diego State	12
52	†Baker, Charlie	LB	6-2	234	9	9-26-57	New Mexico	14
55	Bell, Anthony	LB	6-3	231	3	7- 2-64	Michigan State	12
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	268	10	4-20-57	Clemson	9
62	Brown, Ray	G/T	6-5	280	3	12-12-62	Arkansas State	7
82	Brown, Ron	WR	5-10	186	2	1-11-63	Colorado	3
41	Carter, Carl	CB	5-11	180	3	3- 7-64	Texas Tech	12
74	Chilton, Gene	T	6-3	271	3	3-27-64	Texas	11
79	†Clasby, Bob	DT	6-5	260	3	9-28-60	Notre Dame	12
20	Curtis, Travis	S	5-10	180	2	9-27-65	West Virginia	13
53	Davis, Wayne	LB	6-1	213	2	3-10-64	Alabama	12
17	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	191	5	3- 2-62	Auburn	*8
73	Duda, Mark	DT	6-3	279	6	2- 4-61	Maryland	3
31	†Ferrell, Earl	RB	6-0	240	7	3-27-58	East Tennessee State	11
13	Galloway, David	DE	6-3	279	7	2-16-59	Florida	4
76	Garalczuk, Mark	DT	6-5	272	2	8-12-65	Western Michigan	11
10	Garza, Sammy	QB	6-1	184	2	9-30-65	Texas-El Paso	2
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-0	195	10	6-30-57	Henderson State	12
75	†Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	258	8	11-10-57	Michigan	10
89	Harris, William	TE	6-4	243	2	2-10-65	Texas	10
82	†Holmes, Don	WR	5-10	180	3	4- 1-61	Mesa College (Colo.)	11
11	Horne, Greg	P	6-0	188	2	11-22-64	Arkansas	*9
21	Jackson, Mark	CB	5-9	180	2	3-16-62	Abilene Christian	11
50	Jarostchuk, Ilia	LB	6-3	231	2	8- 1-64	New Hampshire	12
27	†Johnson, Gregory	CB/S	6-1	195	6	10-20-58	Oklahoma State	8
87	†Johnson, Troy	WR	6-1	175	3	10-20-62	Southern	14
54	Junior, E. J.	LB	6-3	235	8	12- 8-59	Alabama	13
70	Kennard, Derek	C	6-3	285	3	9- 9-62	Nevada-Reno	12
15	Lomax, Neil	QB	6-3	215	8	2-17-59	Portland State	12
47	†Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	194	6	9-14-60	Baylor	10
	Mack, Terence	LB	6-3	240	2	9- 9-64	Clemson	5
33	McAdoo, Derrick	RB	5-10	198	2	4- 2-65	Baylor	15
46	McDonald, Tim	S	6-2	207	2	1- 6-65	Southern California	3
30	Mitchell, Stump	RB	5-9	188	8	3-15-59	The Citadel	12
68	Morris, Michael	G	6-5	275	2	2-22-61	Northeast Missouri State	14
57	Noga, Niko	LB	6-1	235	5	3- 2-62	Hawaii	12
85	†Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	235	4	10-24-62	Wyoming	7
78	Nunn, Freddie Joe	DE	6-4	255	4	4- 9-62	Mississippi	12
64	Peat, Todd	G	6-2	294	2	5-20-64	Northern Illinois	12
63	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	302	7	6- 2-58	East Carolina	14
51	†Ruether, Mike	C	6-4	275	3	9-20-62	Texas	12
72	Saddler, Rod	DE	6-5	276	2	9-26-65	Texas A&M	12
39	†Sargent, Broderick	RB	5-10	215	3	9-16-62	Baylor	15
69	Scotts, Colin	DT	6-5	263	2	4-26-63	Hawaii	7
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-4	260	7	6-16-60	UCLA	12
36	Sikahema, Vai	RB/KR	5-9	191	3	8-29-62	Brigham Young	15
84	Smith, J.T.	WR	6-2	185	11	10-29-55	North Texas State	15
61	Smith, Lance	G	6-2	262	4	11- 1-63	Louisiana State	15
45	Smith, Leonard	S	5-11	202	6	9- 2-60	McNeese State	15
18	†Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	215	10	3-27-55	Youngstown State	12
66	Welter, Tom	T	6-5	280	2	2-24-64	Nebraska	3
24	†Wolfley, Ron	RB	6-0	222	4	10-14-62	West Virginia	12
43	Young, Lonnie	S	6-1	182	4	7-18-63	Michigan State	12

*Del Greco played 5 games with Packers, 3 with Cardinals in '87; Horne played 4 games with Bengals, 5 with Cardinals in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Burns has Vikings primed for a run at No. 1 Chicago in NFC Central

By JERRY GREEN
Detroit News

In the NFC Central, a division flavored by its personalities—Mike Ditka, Jim McMahon, Vinny Testaverde and the enlarged Refrigerator—there is also Jerry Burns.

"I've always said the mirror's my mortal enemy," said Burns, head coach of the Minnesota Vikings. "Looking in it makes me sick to my stomach. I'm the ugliest so-and-so who ever lived."

"I'm not gonna look in it and say, 'Hot damn, I had my team in the NFL playoffs.'"

"When you're over 60 you don't say, 'Hot damn,' about anything—except maybe that you're alive."

It is a fact that Jerry Burns has coached in as many Super Bowls as any other coach alive, or dead for that matter. He and Miami's Don Shula have each coached in six. All of them upstairs in the coaches' booth with a set of earphones on his head and a playbook in his face. Those are the tools of the assistant coach.

Jerry Burns, until late in life, was the consummate career assistant coach in the National Football League. He had 20 years worth of it. The face, the leather-wrinkled and gouged skin, was somehow familiar. Oh, yeah, who's that again? The perfect stereotype.

Burns worked under Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers and went to two Super Bowls. He worked for Bud Grant and the Vikings and went to four more.

Last January, Jerry Burns came within six yards and a touch of good fortune of returning to the Super Bowl. Returning with his own team. Returning as a head coach.

After he himself had believed his coaching dreams were all over, Jerry Burns was hired as a head coach in the NFL. After two decades of helping famous other guys do it, and do it well, Burns became head coach of the Vikings. He was 59 at the time, not quite the period of a man's life when he is full of ambition and vigor.

His task was simple: Restore the franchise from a state of chaos and ruin.

"I'm just a young damn kid," Jerry Burns said. "And I've been in the outhouse all my life."

By the end of his second season, Burns was standing on the sidelines at the NFC Championship Game. The Vikings already had ousted the New Orleans Saints from the playoffs. They already had ousted the San Francisco 49ers—and Bill Walsh. Now they were playing the Washington Redskins for the NFC championship, and they trailed, 17-10, with 56 seconds to play. The ball was at the Washington 6-yard line. Fourth and four.

The Vikings got that close to Super

TSN's Predictions

FINISH	COMMENT
1. Chicago	Experience and new-found desire enough to ward off hard-charging Vikings. Return of ground game important.
2. Minnesota	A big-play team which must find a way to score when in close. Defense improving and rookies should help.
3. Tampa Bay	The future is in the arm of quarterback Vinny Testaverde. However, consistent running game must be found.
4. Green Bay	Wait until second half of season for Packers to begin move under reign of new Coach Lindy Infante.
5. Detroit	Still young at quarterback and lack of weapons around Chuck Long. There is progress and Lions not that far away.

Bowl XXII.

The fourth-down pass failed. It was batted down at the goal line.

Jerry Burns muttered a few words that sound like, "Aw, Shucks," and started thinking about next season. There was lots of time for a relatively new head coach with a young team in a rebuilding scheme. Shoot, the Vikings haven't even made a team video yet.

Now next season is here. Burns is 61, and his team is primed.

The Vikings are destined to rise as the Chicago Bears fade out. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are advancing gingerly. The Detroit Lions and the Packers have retreated to ground zero to retrench their programs—again.

"I don't think we're at the level of the Bears yet," says Burns. "Because we haven't been a dominant team, other teams don't fear us as they do the Bears. We just haven't gone out and kicked the stuffs out of some of those clubs like the Bears have."

"I think you get that kind of recognition if you've dominated a division over a period of time. Last year the Bears were 11-4 and we were 8-7. The year before that, the Bears were 14-2 and we were 9-7. We played them twice last season and, even though one was a replacement game, we still lost to them twice."

"Right now the Bears are No. 1 in our division and we're No. 2."

In Chicago, the Bears are being taught the lessons of too much frolicking—of over-glorification.

The day the Redskins cancelled the Bears' ticket to the Super Bowl, running back Walter Payton retired with true tears. That same day, quarterback Jim McMahon was unable to get himself and his arm cranked up for a critical game, as once had been his style.

Television stations across America broke for commercials displaying Head Coach Mike Ditka riding around on roller-skates, or raiding his own home refrigerator in a futile attempt to locate a midnight snack.

In the spring, at the Bears' minicamp,

Ditka made other discoveries. McMahon reported to divulge an injury nobody else had known about. William Perry, The Refrigerator, arrived looking as though he had been raiding Ditka's larder—since Super Sunday. The Fridge was 57 pounds above the weight Ditka had prescribed for him.

"I don't want a 377-pound defensive end," said Ditka, unveiling plans to move Refrigerator Perry from defensive tackle to the outside. Ditka ordered Perry to go on a diet, to lose 57 pounds before training camp.

"Why not?" said Ditka. "That's only a pound a day."

Replacing Payton also will be impossible.

In Tampa Bay, the apprenticeship of quarterback Vinny Testaverde is finished. Head Coach Ray Perkins has designated him as the starter. This prodigy quarterback out of Miami (Fla.) did have the usual troubles reading the linebackers' coverages as a rookie in his infrequent chances last season.

But Testaverde is the rare gem who is not supposed to be usual. His progress in 1988 will be monitored closely by the rest of the division—and world.

The Lions did not change head coaches this year. That in itself is news. Darryl Rogers was retained despite the Lions' 4-11 record and considerable criticism.

One of the critics happened to be Jerry Vainisi, elevated to new front-office powers in 1988. Vainisi, an architect of the Bears' restoration during the early Ditka period, is gradually ascending to the Detroit general managership.

Russ Thomas, hugely criticized for the Lions' prolonged woes, is being drummed toward retirement.

The Packers did change coaches, hiring Lindy Infante, offensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns, in place of Forrest Gregg. But not until after the Packers slipped on a banana during Super Bowl week, attempting to chase down Michigan State's George Perles.

In this division, Burns looks pretty darn good. ■

Bears have reached the crossroads and must decide which route to take

By DAN POMPEI
Chicago Sun-Times

The season doesn't start until September 4, but already the Chicago Bears have endured their three most devastating losses. Walter Payton has retired. Gary Fencik has retired. And Pro Bowl linebacker Wilber Marshall has signed a free-agent contract with the Washington Redskins.

Three years removed from their Super Bowl glory, the Bears have reached a critical juncture. Either they will find themselves in the valley after the peak, or they will continue on the National Football League's high road. Have they been reduced to a fractured remnant of what could have been a dynasty? Or are the Bears still a pacesetter for other teams to emulate?

One thing's that certain is that the Bears no longer are the same collection of darlings and rogues that banded together in 1985 for one of the most romanticized ascensions in recent sports history. The Bears are a team in transition. In previous years they lost their defensive coordinator, two other assistant coaches and their general manager. When the 1988 season opens, there's a chance about 20 of the 45 Bears who played in Super Bowl XX no longer will be in Chicago uniforms.

This time the Bears have lost players who have been critical to their success. Gone is Payton, the NFL's all-time leading rusher and the rock upon which the Chicago offense of the late 1970s and '80s was built. Gone is Fencik, the Bears' all-time leading tackler and interceptor. Gone, too, is Marshall, who is considered by some to be the best outside linebacker in football.

While Payton, who finished his career with 16,726 yards rushing, is irreplaceable in many ways, the man taking his place as the Bears' primary offensive weapon is ready, willing and able. Neal Anderson, playing out of position at fullback last season, led the team in rushing with 586 yards and in receptions with 47. Moving to halfback and out of Payton's shadow should enable Anderson to double his running yards. First-round draft choice Brad Muster of Stanford, a running back, should help take some of the load off Anderson as well as handle the blocking for him.

The replacement of Fencik began last season when the veteran was benched in favor of Todd Bell, who since has been released. This season Dave Duerson, the Bears' leading tackler in 1987, moves back to strong safety and Shaun Gayle, who has played well in limited appearances, will become the starter at free safety.

The most shocking and least appreciated departure was Marshall's. The Bears said it wouldn't have been prudent to



Quarterback Jim McMahon must remain healthy if the Bears are to continue on the NFL high road.

match the \$6 million, five-year guaranteed contract Marshall signed with the Redskins, so they allowed him to become the first NFL free agent to switch teams in 11 years.

All things considered, however, it could have been worse. At least the Bears have an experienced, talented reserve ready to take Marshall's place in fifth-year man Ron Rivera. But he's not Marshall.

"I think the best thing to do in a situation like this is not to try to emulate a guy, but be yourself," said Rivera, who had 38 tackles and one sack in part-time play. "Wilber's a high-impact guy who makes things happen fast. I get the job done; if big plays come, they come."

Middle linebacker Mike Singletary, one of four Bears defenders to play in last year's Pro Bowl, will again anchor a Chicago defense that ranked No. 1 in the league against the run last year while losing its No. 1 overall ranking to the San Francisco 49ers.

One statistic that must be improved is a giveaway-takeaway ratio of minus-20, the second worst in the league last year. During their Super Bowl season, the Bears

ranked first with a plus-23 turnover ratio.

In addition to player losses, the Bears must be aware of potential problems that attitude, age and the improving Minnesota Vikings could create. The Bears' off-season frugality caused some players to question Owner Michael McCaskey's commitment to winning. In addition to letting Marshall escape, the Bears weren't willing to pay Canadian Football League free agent cornerback Roy Bennett the going rate, and they released high-priced veterans Bell, quarterback Steve Fuller and tight end Tim Wrightman.

McCaskey defends himself by pointing out the Bears were the fifth-highest paid team in the NFL last season. It's likely they'll move into the top four teams this year, as 25 Bears—not including Marshall and Wrightman—were without contracts after last season.

Bears Pro Bowl center Jay Hilgenberg said it was "upsetting" to learn Marshall had signed with the Redskins.

"The worst thing that could happen would be a negative attitude up at Halas Hall," Hilgenberg said of the Bears' training facility. The team's collective psyche also is not helped by the fact that those same Redskins have knocked the Bears out of the playoffs each of the last two seasons.

Age may catch up with the Bears if frugality hasn't. The defensive line, linebacker and tight end are three areas that look especially vulnerable. Defensive ends Dan Hampton and Al Harris have been with the Bears since 1979 and tackle Steve McMichael will turn 31 during the season. Singletary will turn 30 and fellow linebacker Otis Wilson 31. Starting tight end Emery Moorehead is 34.

The comparative youth of the Vikings is one reason Bears Coach Mike Ditka and others say Minnesota should be the favorite in the NFC Central Division this season. This comes despite Chicago's four straight division titles and the Bears' 29-2 record against NFC Central foes during that time.

Ditka and the Bears prefer being underdogs, for it enables change to be accepted more readily. For 1988, the Bears are altering some of their basic philosophies. For example, in deference to receivers coach Greg Landry, Ditka says he will no longer call offensive plays. He wants Chicago to be less predictable and more versatile. Ditka says he's going to employ multiple offensive formations and at various times the Bears might use a one-back attack, two tight ends or four receivers.

Quarterback Jim McMahon, whose health again will be a pivotal factor in the Bears' season, may finally get his wish to throw more. The drafting of Louisiana State receiver Wendell Davis and the continued improvement of second-year receiver Ron Morris may ensure it.

On defense, the Bears plan to substitute more. Blitzes could become more complex and defensive sets more difficult to read.

The most significant change, however, may be Ditka's own attitude. He says he's taking things less seriously, and he's been trying to promote harmony and unity in the off-season while downplaying the controversies that have distracted the Bears in the past.

He gave defensive tackle William Perry his starting job back in the off-season after benching Perry for being overweight at the end of last year. He made peace with Dennis McKinnon after the wide receiver had repeatedly second-guessed the coaching staff during the season.

"We can have the fun and enthusiasm we had in 1985," Ditka said. "That's my job and I'm going to try to make that happen." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—MIAMI	12:00
Sept. 11—at Indianapolis	12:00
Sept. 18—MINNESOTA	12:00
Sept. 25—at Green Bay	12:00
Oct. 2—BUFFALO	12:00
Oct. 9—at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 16—DALLAS	12:00
Oct. 24—SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	8:00
Oct. 30—at New England	1:00
Nov. 6—TAMPA BAY	12:00
Nov. 13—at Washington	1:00
Nov. 20—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 27—GREEN BAY	12:00
Dec. 5—at Los Angeles Rams (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 11—DETROIT	12:00
Dec. 19—at Minnesota (Mon.)	8:00

1987 RESULTS—(11-5)

Bears	Opp.	Att.
34 New York Giants	19 (H)	65,704
20 Tampa Bay	3 (H)	63,551
Detroit	(A)	
35 Philadelphia	3 (A)	4,073
27 Minnesota	7 (H)	32,111
17 New Orleans	19 (H)	46,813
27 Tampa Bay	26 (A)	70,747
31 Kansas City	28 (H)	63,498
26 Green Bay	24 (A)	53,320
29 Denver	31 (A)	75,783
30 Detroit	10 (H)	63,357
23 Green Bay	10 (H)	61,638
30 Minnesota	24 (A)	62,331
0 San Francisco	41 (A)	63,509
21 Seattle	3 (H)	62,518
6 L.A. Raiders	3 (A)	78,019

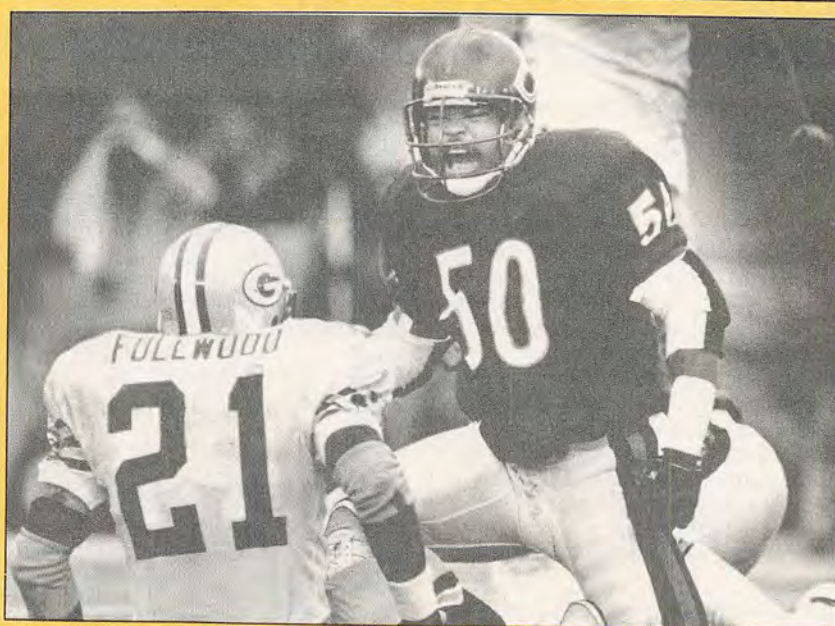
NFC SEMIFINAL GAME

17 Washington	21 (H)	66,030
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*Game cancelled due to strike.
Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. MUSTER, Brad	RB	Stanford
1. DAVIS, Wendell	WR	Louisiana State
from Washington		
2. JONES, Dante	LB	Oklahoma
3. JARVIS, Ralph	DE	Temple
4. THORNTON, Jim	TE	Fullerton State
5. JOHNSON, Troy	LB	Oklahoma
6. STINSON, Lemuel	DB	Texas Tech
7. RENTIE, Caesar	T	Oklahoma
8. TATE, David	DB	Colorado
from New England		
8. RED, Harvey	RB	Howard
9. MAGEE, Rogie	WR	Louisiana State
10. PORTER, Joel	G	Baylor
11. FORCH, Steve	LB	Nebraska
12. CLARK, Greg	LB	Arizona State



Chicago Bears linebacker Mike Singletary.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
54	Adickes, John	C	6-3	264	2	6-29-64	Baylor	6
47	†Allen, Egypt	CB/S	6-0	203	2	7-28-64	Texas Christian	6
70	Althoff, Jim	DT	6-3	278	2	9-27-61	Winona State	4
35	Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	210	3	8-14-64	Florida	11
81	Barnes, Lew	WR	5-8	163	2	12-27-62	Oregon	*0
17	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-3	205	2	6-11-63	North Carolina	*5
79	Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	270	7	12-22-58	Michigan	12
68	Blair, Paul	T	6-4	295	3	3-8-63	Oklahoma State	10
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	269	6	2-12-61	Iowa	12
86	Boso, Cap	TE	6-3	224	2	9-10-62	Illinois	12
6	†Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	204	4	7-24-62	Georgia	12
94	Chapura, Dick	DT	6-3	280	2	6-15-64	Missouri	2
74	Covert, Jim	T	6-4	271	6	3-22-60	Pittsburgh	9
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	263	6	12-13-60	Tennessee State	12
36	†Douglass, Maurice	CB/S	5-11	200	3	2-12-64	Kentucky	12
22	Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	203	6	11-28-60	Notre Dame	12
83	†Gault, Willie	WR	6-1	183	6	9-5-60	Tennessee	12
23	Gayle, Shaun	CB	5-11	193	5	3-8-62	Ohio State	8
29	†Gentry, Dennis	WR	5-8	181	7	2-10-59	Baylor	12
	Goode, Conrad	T	6-6	285	4	1-19-62	Missouri	*11
99	Hampton, Dan	DE	6-5	267	10	9-19-57	Arkansas	8
4	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	202	2	12-23-63	Michigan	6
90	Harris, Al	LB	6-5	253	9	12-31-56	Arizona State	12
63	†Hilgenberg, Jay	C	6-2	260	8	3-21-60	Iowa	12
24	Jackson, Vestee	CB	6-0	186	3	8-14-63	Washington	12
31	Jeffries, Eric	CB/S	5-10	161	1	7-25-64	Texas	1
93	Johnson, Will	LB	6-4	245	2	12-4-64	Northeast Louisiana	11
88	†Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	193	2	12-31-62	Brigham Young	3
43	Lynch, Lorenzo	CB/S	5-9	197	2	4-6-63	Cal State-Sacramento	2
85	†McKinnon, Dennis	WR	6-1	185	5	8-22-61	Florida State	12
	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	190	7	8-21-59	Brigham Young	7
76	†McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	260	9	10-17-57	Texas	12
87	†Moorehead, Emery	TE	6-2	220	12	3-22-54	Colorado	12
84	Morris, Ron	WR	6-1	187	2	11-14-64	Southern Methodist	12
51	Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	215	4	12-24-62	Michigan State	10
46	†Mosley, Anthony	RB	5-9	204	1	12-25-65	Fresno State	2
91	Norvell, Jay	LB	6-2	232	2	3-28-63	Iowa	6
89	Ortego, Keith	WR	6-0	180	4	8-30-63	McNeese State	8
72	Perry, William	DT	6-2	325	4	12-16-62	Clemson	12
48	Phillips, Reggie	CB	5-10	170	4	12-12-60	Southern Methodist	12
27	†Richardson, Mike	CB	6-0	188	6	5-23-61	Arizona State	11
59	†Rivera, Ron	LB	6-3	239	5	1-7-62	California	12
53	Rodenhauser, Mark	C	6-5	260	2	6-1-61	Illinois State	9
52	†Rubens, Larry	C	6-2	262	4	1-25-59	Montana State	*0
20	†Sanders, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	4	1-4-62	Texas A&M	12
50	Singletary, Mike	LB	6-0	228	8	10-9-58	Baylor	12
97	Smith, Sean	DE	6-4	275	2	3-27-65	Grambling	10
26	Suhey, Matt	RB	5-11	216	9	7-7-58	Penn State	12
57	Thayer, Tom	G	6-4	261	4	8-16-61	Notre Dame	11
33	†Thomas, Calvin	RB	5-11	245	7	1-7-60	Illinois	12
18	†Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	195	4	10-23-62	Ohio State	12
78	†Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	280	8	11-6-57	Southern California	12
15	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	195	2	3-28-62	Cal. State-Northridge	10
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	232	9	9-15-57	Louisville	7
73	Wojciechowski, John	G	6-4	262	2	7-30-63	Michigan State	4

*Barnes and Rubens missed '87 season due to injury; Barnhardt played 3 games with Saints, 2 with Bears in '87; Goode played 11 games with Buccaneers in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Gary Fencik, 12-year safety, 12 games in '87; Walter Payton, 13-year running back, 12 games in '87.

Resurgent Vikings have the tools to make another run at Super Bowl

By CURT BROWN
St. Paul Pioneer Press

The more you look at Minnesota Vikings Coach Jerry Burns, the more he reminds you of Mick, the weathered trainer played by actor Burgess Meredith in the "Rocky" movies.

He barks out profanities, cracks jokes to his players and occasionally gets serious in his chats with the troops.

Flash back to January 17, 1988, in the crowded visitors' locker room at Washington's RFK Stadium. The Vikings' season had just ended with a 17-10 loss to the Redskins in the National Football Conference title game.

Amid the gobs of soiled tape, shoulder pads, deodorant cans and blank faces, Burns gathered his players around.

"Last year I told you guys the nucleus of a playoff team was right here in this room," Burns said. "Now I'm going to tell you the nucleus of a Super Bowl team is right here."

Mere inspirational bravado from a 60-year-old coach? Perhaps. One could argue, however, that the Vikings of 1988 have as much talent as any team in the National Football League.

"Just because we ended up six yards away from the end zone in RFK doesn't mean we're six yards away from the Super Bowl," Burns said recently. "We've got to reshape and rework the whole thing again."

But after a decade of mediocrity, Burns and the Vikings finally have the tools to get Minnesota into the Super Bowl for the fifth time. Sure, they've finished within a game of the .500 mark nine of the past 10 seasons. But last year's 8-7 record was warped by three strike-game losses. The real guys were 8-4.

Of the 10 teams to make the playoffs last season, only the Vikings failed to pick up any victories during the strike. The other nine teams won at least two strike games.

And those shocking playoff victories in New Orleans (44-10) and San Francisco (36-24) by the regular Vikings lent credence to Burns' statement that the Vikings could once again be a Super Bowl team.

On defense, where championships are won, defensive end Chris Doleman came alive in 1987 after being a bust at linebacker his first two seasons. He had 11 sacks, finishing sixth in the NFL.

Moreover, a handful of those sacks were so ferocious they jarred the ball away from the quarterback and turned games around. That's what earned Doleman a spot in the starting lineup at the Pro Bowl.

The leader of the Vikings' front four, however, is tackle Keith Millard. With his brute pressure inside and the speedy Do-



Tackle Keith Millard supplies the brute strength for Minnesota's defensive line.

leman circling outside, the Vikings have a one-two punch that Burgess Meredith would be proud of.

Nose tackle Henry Thomas was perhaps the most unsung rookie in the league last year. He started every game except one and finished the season with 81 tackles, the fourth-best total on the club.

The Vikings drafted University of Hawaii pass rusher Al Noga, a frenzied Samoan, on the third round. Noga, whose brother, Niko, is a linebacker with the Phoenix Cardinals, opened his first post-draft interview with this quote: "I can't wait to get up there and kill some people."

Perhaps he'll share a room with veteran strong safety Joey Browner, a martial arts expert and Japanese sword fighter who has been to the last three Pro Bowls.

Browner, considered one of pro football's hardest hitters, tied with linebacker Jesse Solomon for the team lead in tackles with 121. But reading defenses is Browner's weakness, so the Vikings spent a second-round draft choice on brainy South Carolina safety Brad Edwards. Edwards is expected to replace free safety John Harris as the quarterback in the secondary.

The Achilles heel of the Vikings' defense is at linebacker. Scott Studwell, David Howard and Solomon are not dominating players. The trio combined for just

three sacks last year.

The Vikings didn't draft a linebacker until the eighth round last spring, so it's likely that the linebackers of 1987 will also be there in '88.

On offense, however, the Vikings can be explosive. And their most explosive player is wide receiver Anthony Carter, who averaged nearly 25 yards a catch, scored seven touchdowns and was voted to the NFC Pro Bowl squad. Carter gained a mind-boggling 642 yards in three playoff games on 23 receptions, 13 punt returns and one end-around.

His 227 receiving yards against San Francisco set an NFL playoff record.

It's a safe bet that Carter will catch more than the 38 passes he has caught in each of the last two seasons.

It's less certain which quarterback will be getting the ball to Carter. Injury-prone Tommy Kramer is 33 and has not finished a game he has started in 17 outings. His 81 attempts, 40 completions and 452 yards passing last year were career lows for Kramer since he became Minnesota's starting quarterback in 1979.

Wade Wilson, who's entering his eighth season with the Vikings, proved last year that he was more than just a serviceable quarterback. The Vikings won five of the seven games he started and Wilson rushed 41 times for 263 yards, the third-highest total among NFL quarterbacks.

Another quarterback likely to vie for playing time is second-year man Rich Gannon, a player with quick feet who got into only four 1987 games.

"We think Gannon can be another (John) Elway," said Burns in grand overstatement. "But he hasn't been in there yet to pull the trigger."

The Vikings, however, are not likely to trade one of their quarterbacks to fill other needs.

"We've put the word out we don't want to trade any of our quarterbacks because we feel all three can play and that's the strength of our team," General Manager Mike Lynn said.

The Vikings are quietly building one of the best offensive lines in football. Left tackle Gary Zimmerman was voted to his first Pro Bowl last year and, at 25, will probably be a fixture in that game for years to come. Minnesota's No. 1 draft choice last spring was Arizona State guard Randall McDaniel, a national weightlifting champion who runs faster than most running backs (4.56 in the 40).

McDaniel, Zimmerman and Co. will be opening holes for veteran running back Darrin Nelson, the Vikings' rushing leader with 642 yards, and D.J. Dozier, who should improve after a mediocre rookie season (257 yards rushing and 12 receptions).

Tight end Steve Jordan, one of the league's most underrated players, caught 35 passes a year ago and made his second

straight Pro Bowl appearance.

The Minnesota kicking game is adequate at best. Placekicker Chuck Nelson converted just 13 of 24 attempts, including just one of eight from 40 yards or more. Punter Greg Coleman averaged 39.7 net yards on 45 kicks.

The Vikings seem to have enough talent to knock the Chicago Bears from atop the NFC Central Division, a division the Bears have won the last four seasons. Whether they will remain to be seen.

"I don't think this team has to back off from any team in the league," Burns said. "Take the top six teams in the league and we're one of them. I think the Bears are still No. 1 in our division, but we're drawing toward them." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Buffalo.....	1:00
Sept. 11—NEW ENGLAND.....	3:00
Sept. 18—at Chicago.....	12:00
Sept. 25—PHILADELPHIA.....	12:00
Oct. 2—at Miami.....	4:00
Oct. 9—TAMPA BAY.....	12:00
Oct. 16—GREEN BAY.....	12:00
Oct. 23—at Tampa Bay.....	1:00
Oct. 30—at San Francisco.....	1:00
Nov. 6—DETROIT.....	12:00
Nov. 13—at Dallas.....	7:00
Nov. 20—INDIANAPOLIS.....	12:00
Nov. 24—at Detroit (Thanksgiving).....	12:30
Dec. 4—NEW ORLEANS.....	12:00
Dec. 11—at Green Bay.....	12:00
Dec. 19—CHICAGO (Mon.).....	8:00

1987 RESULTS—(10-8)

Vikings	Opp.	Att.
34 Detroit.....	19 (H)	57,061
21 L.A. Rams.....	16 (A)	63,567
Kansas City*.....	(A)	
16 Green Bay.....	23 (H)	13,911
7 Chicago.....	27 (A)	32,111
10 Tampa Bay.....	20 (A)	20,850
34 Denver.....	27 (H)	51,011
17 Seattle.....	28 (A)	61,134
31 L.A. Raiders.....	20 (H)	57,150
23 Tampa Bay.....	17 (H)	48,605
24 Atlanta.....	13 (H)	53,866
44 Dallas (OT).....	38 (A)	54,229
24 Chicago.....	30 (H)	62,331
10 Green Bay.....	16 (A)	47,059
17 Detroit.....	14 (A)	27,693
24 Washington (OT).....	27 (H)	59,166

NFC WILD-CARD GAME

44 New Orleans.....	10 (A)	68,127
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NFC SEMIFINAL GAME

36 San Francisco.....	24 (A)	62,547
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NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

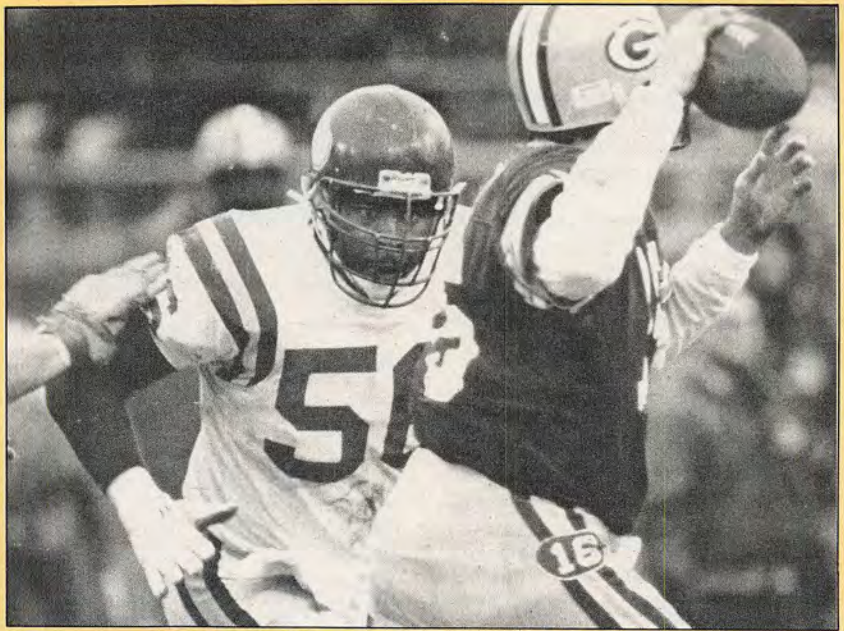
10 Washington.....	17 (A)	55,212
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. McDANIEL, Randall	G	Arizona State
2. Choice to Denver		
2. EDWARDS, Brad	DB	South Carolina
from Denver		
3. NOGA, Al	DT	Hawaii
4. Choice to New England		
4. KALIS, Todd	G	Arizona State
from Denver		
5. FULLINGTON, Darrell	DB	Miami (Fla.)
6. Choice to Miami		
6. WHITE, Derrick	DB	Oklahoma
from Denver		
7. BECKMAN, Brad	TE	Neb.-Omaha
8. CAIN, Joe	LB	Oregon Tech
9. McGOWAN, Paul	LB	Florida State
10. HABIB, Brian	DT	Washington
11. FLOYD, Norman	DB	South Carolina
12. Choice to N.Y. Giants		



Minnesota Vikings defensive end Chris Doleman.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
46	Anderson, Alfred	RB	6-1	219	5	8-4-61	Baylor	10
53	Anno, Sam	LB	6-2	230	2	1-26-65	Southern California	*9
58	Ashley, Walker Lee	LB	6-0	240	5	7-28-60	Penn State	12
50	Berry, Ray	LB	6-2	230	2	10-28-63	Baylor	11
19	Brim, James	WR	6-3	187	2	2-28-63	Wake Forest	3
47	Browner, Joey	S/CB	6-2	212	6	5-15-60	Southern California	12
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	166	4	9-17-60	Michigan	12
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	181	12	9-9-54	Florida A&M	9
56	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	250	4	10-16-61	Pittsburgh	12
42	Dzier, D.J.	RB	6-0	198	2	9-21-65	Penn State	9
	Durquette, Michael	OL	6-4	280	3	8-11-57	West Virginia	*3
31	Fenney, Rick	RB	6-1	240	2	12-7-64	Washington	11
62	Foot, Chris	C	6-4	265	6	12-2-56	Southern California	6
22	Freeman, Steve	S	5-11	185	14	5-8-53	Mississippi State	12
16	Gannon, Rich	QB	6-3	197	2	12-20-65	Delaware	4
	Gay, William	DE	6-5	260	11	5-28-55	Southern California	*11
41	†Guggemos, Neal	S	6-0	187	3	6-14-64	St. Thomas	12
80	†Gustafson, Jim	WR	6-1	181	3	3-16-61	St. Thomas	12
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	198	11	6-13-56	Arizona State	12
24	Henderson, Wymon	CB/S	5-10	186	2	12-15-61	Nevada-Las Vegas	12
82	Hilton, Carl	TE	6-3	232	3	2-28-64	Houston	11
30	Holt, Issiac	CB	6-1	197	4	10-4-62	Alcorn State	9
51	Howard, David	LB	6-2	228	4	12-8-61	Long Beach State	10
72	†Huffman, David	G	6-6	283	9	4-4-57	Notre Dame	12
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-6	289	8	12-13-58	Tennessee	12
84	Jones, Hassan	WR	6-0	195	3	7-2-64	Florida State	12
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	236	7	1-10-61	Brown	12
68	†Koch, Greg	T	6-4	276	12	6-14-55	Arkansas	*10
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-2	207	12	3-7-55	Rice	6
39	Lee, Carl	CB	5-11	184	6	4-6-61	Marshall	12
87	Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	171	8	9-17-56	Missouri	12
63	†Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-3	263	4	4-10-63	Ohio State	12
71	MacDonald, Mark	G	6-4	267	4	4-30-61	Boston College	12
56	†Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	233	6	12-19-60	Auburn	12
79	†Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	270	9	5-22-57	Washington	12
73	†Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	264	9	3-13-58	Washington	12
75	Millard, Keith	DT	6-6	260	4	3-18-62	Washington State	9
86	Mularkey, Mike	TE	6-4	238	6	11-19-61	Florida	9
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	246	13	4-30-53	Colorado State	*0
1	Nelson, Chuck	K	5-11	172	5	2-23-60	Washington	12
20	Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	183	7	1-2-59	Stanford	10
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	283	4	3-23-63	Florida	9
52	Rasmussen, Randy	C/G	6-1	254	5	9-27-60	Minnesota	5
36	Rice, Allen	RB	5-10	203	5	4-5-62	Baylor	12
95	†Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	256	3	5-4-63	Auburn	7
48	Rutland, Reggie	S	6-1	195	2	6-20-64	Georgia Tech	4
13	Scribner, Bucky	P	6-0	205	4	7-11-60	Kansas	4
40	†Smith, Wayne	CB	6-0	170	9	5-9-57	Purdue	6
54	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	235	3	11-4-63	Florida State	12
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	228	12	8-27-54	Illinois	12
67	†Swiley, Dennis	C	6-3	257	11	6-28-55	Texas A&M	6
66	Tausch, Terry	T	6-5	275	7	2-5-59	Texas	5
97	Thomas, Henry	NT	6-2	268	2	1-12-65	Louisiana State	12
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	208	8	2-1-59	East Texas State	12
65	†Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	277	3	12-13-61	Oregon	12

*Anno played 3 games with Rams, 6 with Vikings in '87; Durquette played 3 games with 49ers, inactive for 2 games with Vikings in '87; Gay played 11 games with Lions in '87; Koch played 1 game with Dolphins, 9 with Vikings in '87; Mullaney missed '87 season due to injury.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Optimistic Tampa fans hope Testaverde is ready to lead Bucs to Promised Land

By NATHAN HUANG
Sarasota Herald Tribune

It was the same sad song for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1987—two victories for the third successive season. But the Bucs are talking about writing a different refrain in '88.

Optimism abounds again.

"We expect to win," linebacker Chris Washington said. "I'm tired of reading that the Bucs are young and learning. I want to win now. It's no fun busting your butt all season and coming up with two wins."

The 1987 highlight film was titled, "The Start of Something Big." Owner Hugh Culverhouse didn't devise it, but he sounds as if he could have.

"I've never felt as enthused or more encouraged about the future," Culverhouse said after the Bucs finished 4-11 (two victories came in strike games). "I feel better than I've felt in five years. I believe (Coach) Ray Perkins and his staff did one of the best coaching jobs that has ever been done here."

"Now, I am not saying we will make it next year (1988) or the next. But the '90s will belong to the Bucs."

The basis for such a bold proclamation is two-fold. Perkins, whom Culverhouse calls "my Vince Lombardi," and second-year quarterback Vinny Testaverde. And if Culverhouse proves prophetic, Tampa Bay fans probably won't mind the \$3 increase in ticket prices this season.

Testaverde, who signed a six-year, \$8.2-million contract as a rookie, started the final four games in 1987. He struggled after passing for 369 yards in his first start at New Orleans, finishing the season with 1,081. Testaverde completed 43 percent of his passes with five touchdowns and six interceptions.

There will be no quarterback competition in 1988. It's Testaverde's job. Period. Steve DeBerg, who started the first eight games last year, was traded to Kansas City in late March. As insurance, the Bucs acquired 16-year veteran Joe Ferguson from Indianapolis shortly after the draft last spring.

"I'm sure everybody will talk about our record, how we didn't win any of the games I played in," Testaverde said. "But it was all a learning situation. It was something I had to grow up in. I learned how to use the people around me."

But one person Testaverde has already lost is quarterback coach Marc Trestman, who also tutored him at the University of Miami. Trestman accepted a similar position with the Cleveland Browns, where he'll join another Miami alumnus, Bernie Kosar. Perkins chose not to hire a replacement for Trestman and will assume the duties himself.

The Bucs, however, got Testaverde a



Tampa Bay's starting quarterback job belongs to Vinny Testaverde.

bodyguard. Paul Gruber, a 6-foot-5, 290-pound offensive tackle from Wisconsin, was Tampa Bay's first-round choice in the draft. Gruber, the fourth player taken, is expected to be an immediate starter at left tackle, a position that haunted the Bucs in 1987. After starter Rob Taylor was injured at mid-season, four players were tried at the position.

"Gruber is one of the best big athletes I've ever seen," Perkins said. "He's one of those players so gifted that I feel real good in saying that he will (start) in his rookie year. That's saying a lot when you talk about offensive linemen."

"I've always thought that John Hannah was the best offensive lineman I've ever seen. But Gruber is more well-equipped, coming out of college, to do the things we're going to ask him to do, than John Hannah was. This guy (Gruber) is an accomplished pass-blocker right now."

The Bucs' offensive line is a good bet to undergo radical changes. Only six-year veteran center Randy Grimes is a fixture.

Right tackle Ron Heller, who had started 56 of the past 58 games, asked to be traded and was dealt to Seattle for defensive end Randy Edwards. Taylor is the logical successor.

John Bruhin, a 6-4, 283-pound guard from Tennessee, was drafted in the fourth round and will challenge incumbent left guard George Yarno. Right guard Rick Mallory will get a fight from Mike Simmonds, who missed his entire rookie season with a leg injury.

The Bucs also appear improved at running back. Lars Tate, who trails only Herschel Walker in the University of Georgia record books, was drafted in the second round. Tate could become an immediate starter in the backfield with veteran James Wilder.

Jeff Smith, Wilder's partner in 1987, averaged only 3.1 yards per carry in gaining 309 yards. Another contender is Don Smith, a No. 2 pick last year who missed the entire '87 season with leg and back injuries.

Perkins is toying with the idea of moving Wilder from fullback to running back. Wilder is coming off his least productive season since 1982, having gained just 488 yards and failing to score a rushing touchdown. The Bucs drafted fullbacks William Howard (Tennessee) in the fifth round and Anthony Simpson (East Carolina) in the eighth.

The Bucs gambled in the draft on a pair of little-known players in trying to improve their defensive line, which had 39 sacks a year ago.

Robert Goff, a 6-3, 262-pound project from Auburn, was taken in the fourth round despite not starting a game during his two seasons with the Tigers. And Shawn Lee, a 6-3, 285-pounder, was picked in the sixth round despite having played defensive line for only two seasons at North Alabama, a Division II school.

The linebacking corps is the strength of the team. Ervin Randle, the Bucs' leading tackler last season, is set at one inside spot and Jeff Davis will battle second-year man Don Graham, injured most of 1987, at the other. Washington will man one of the outside linebacking positions and the other will be decided from among incumbent Jackie Walker, Winston Moss and Kevin Murphy.

Both safety positions were weaknesses in 1987. Bobby Kemp, an eight-year NFL veteran acquired on waivers, started the entire season at strong safety. Ray Isom, signed as a free agent, saw the most action at free safety. Kemp and Isom combined for just three interceptions. One of those spots figures to go to Mark Robinson, acquired from Kansas City in the DeBerg trade.

There also will be an intriguing contest

at punter. Frank Garcia, who had held the job since 1983, was released after the season. Monte Robbins of Michigan was a fourth-round draft pick after averaging 42.6 yards a kick in his college career. Robbins will battle four free agents for the job, including Ray Criswell, who compiled a 40.2-yard average on the Bucs' replacement team.

Barring the unforeseen, Donald Igwebuike seems likely to be the placekicker for the fourth straight year. Igwebuike was 14 of 18 in the field-goal department and 24 of 26 in extra-point attempts.

"We've upgraded our group from last year," Perkins said. "I know that we've got better people to work with to give us a better chance to make progress, a lot more so than we did last year." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Sept. 11—at Green Bay	12:00
Sept. 18—PHOENIX	1:00
Sept. 25—at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 2—GREEN BAY	1:00
Oct. 9—at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 16—at Indianapolis	12:00
Oct. 23—MINNESOTA	1:00
Oct. 30—MIAMI	1:00
Nov. 6—at Chicago	12:00
Nov. 13—at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 20—CHICAGO	1:00
Nov. 27—at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 4—BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 11—at New England	1:00
Dec. 18—DETROIT	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(4-11)

Buccaneers	Opp.	Att.
48 Atlanta	10 (H)	51,250
3 Chicago	20 (A)	63,551
Green Bay*	(H)	
31 Detroit	27 (A)	4,919
13 San Diego	17 (H)	23,873
20 Minnesota	10 (H)	20,850
26 Chicago	27 (H)	70,747
23 Green Bay	17 (A)	50,308
28 St. Louis	31 (A)	22,449
17 Minnesota	23 (A)	48,605
10 San Francisco	24 (H)	63,211
3 L.A. Rams	35 (A)	45,188
34 New Orleans	44 (A)	66,471
10 Detroit	20 (H)	41,699
14 St. Louis	31 (H)	32,046
6 Indianapolis	24 (A)	60,468

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. GRUBER, Paul	T	Wisconsin
2. Choice to Philadelphia		
2. TATE, Lars	RB	Georgia
3. Choice exercised from San Francisco		
3. Choice exercised in 1987 Supplemental Draft for Dan Sileo, DT, Miami (Fla.)		
4. GOFF, Robert	DT	Auburn
4. BRUHIN, John	G	Tennessee
4. Choice to New England from Kansas City		
4. ROBBINS, Monte	P	Michigan
5. HOWARD, William	RB	Tennessee
6. Choice to Atlanta		
6. LEE, Shawn	DT	North Alabama
7. GOODE, Kerry	RB	Alabama
8. SIMPSON, Anthony	RB	East Carolina
9. DAVIS, Reuben	DT	North Carolina
10. Choice to Pittsburgh		
11. PILLLOW, Frank	WR	Tennessee St.
12. JONES, Victor	LB	Virginia Tech

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
20	†Austin, Cliff	RB	6-0	190	6	3- 2-60	Clemson	3
	Bellinger, Rodney	CB	5-8	189	4	6- 4-62	Miami (Fla.)	*0
6	Bowman, Kevin	WR	6-2	205	2	2-23-62	San Jose State	*3
52	†Brantley, Scot	LB	6-1	230	9	2-24-58	Florida	12
47	Brophy, Jay	LB	6-3	232	5	7-27-60	Miami (Fla.)	*3
6	Brown, Kevin	P	6-1	185	2	1-11-63	West Texas State	*3
78	†Cannon, John	DE	6-5	260	7	7-30-60	William & Mary	11
89	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	182	2	10-28-65	Nicholls State	10
87	Carter, Gerald	WR	6-1	190	9	6-19-57	Texas A&M	12
71	†Cooper, Mark	T	6-5	270	6	2-14-60	Miami (Fla.)	*9
13	Criswell, Ray	P	6-0	189	2	8-16-63	Florida	3
58	†Davis, Jeff	LB	6-0	230	7	1-26-60	Clemson	11
28	Edwards, Dave	S	5-11	194	4	3-31-62	Illinois	*3
	Edwards, Randy	NT	6-4	267	4	3- 9-61	Alabama	*7
29	Elder, Donnie	CB	5-9	175	3	12-13-63	Memphis State	*0
	Evans, David	CB	6-0	178	3	5- 1-59	Central Arkansas	*3
38	Evans, James	RB	6-0	220	2	8-14-63	Southern	*2
	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	16	4-23-50	Arkansas	*0
81	†Freeman, Phil	WR	5-11	185	4	12- 9-62	Arizona	8
36	†Futrell, Bobby	CB/S	5-11	190	3	8- 4-62	Elizabeth City State	12
91	Gant, Brian	LB	6-0	235	2	9- 6-65	Illinois State	11
36	Gill, Owen	RB	6-1	240	3	2-19-62	Iowa	*1
31	Gordon, Sonny	S	5-11	192	2	7-30-65	Ohio State	7
53	Graham, Don	LB	6-2	244	2	1-31-64	Penn State	2
60	†Grimes, Randy	C	6-4	270	6	7-20-60	Baylor	12
82	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	238	2	3-15-64	Hawaii	11
5	Herline, Alan	P	6-0	170	2	9-16-64	Vanderbilt	*3
84	Hill, Bruce	WR	6-0	175	2	2-29-64	Arizona State	8
7	Hold, Mike	QB	5-11	190	2	3-16-63	South Carolina	2
90	Holmes, Ron	DE	6-4	255	4	8-26-63	Washington	10
25	Howard, Bobby	RB	6-0	210	3	6- 1-64	Indiana	12
37	Hunter, Eddie	RB	5-10	195	2	1-20-65	Virginia Tech	*6
1	Igwebuike, Donald	K	5-9	185	4	12-27-60	Clemson	12
28	Isom, Ray	S	5-9	190	2	12-27-65	Penn State	6
24	Jackson, Andrew	RB	5-10	190	2	5- 6-64	Iowa State	*7
95	Jarvis, Curt	DT/DE	6-2	266	2	1-28-65	Alabama	2
46	Jones, Dale	LB	6-1	240	2	3- 8-63	Tennessee	*3
22	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	175	3	3-31-64	Southern Methodist	11
75	Kellin, Kevin	DE	6-5	250	3	11-16-59	Minnesota	7
33	†Kemp, Bobby	S	6-0	190	8	5-29-59	Fullerton State	12
77	†Maarleveld, J.D.	T	6-6	300	3	10-24-61	Maryland	11
86	Magee, Calvin	TE	6-3	240	4	4-23-63	Southern	11
68	†Mallory, Rick	G	6-2	265	4	10-21-60	Washington	12
99	McHale, Tom	DE	6-4	275	2	2-25-63	Cornell	3
98	McInerney, Sean	DE	6-3	260	2	12-27-60	Frostburg State	*3
83	Miller, Solomon	WR	6-1	185	3	12- 6-64	Utah State	8
57	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	235	2	12-24-65	Miami (Fla.)	12
76	Mumphrey, Lloyd	DE	6-3	270	2	2-14-61	Mississippi Valley State	*3
59	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	230	3	9- 8-63	Oklahoma	9
50	Najarian, Pete	LB	6-2	232	2	12-22-63	Minnesota	*5
74	Petty, Phil	G	6-4	270	2	4-17-61	Missouri	*3
2	Prindle, Mike	K	5-11	160	2	11-12-63	Western Michigan	*3
40	Quinn, Marcus	CB/S	6-3	205	2	6-27-59	Louisiana State	3
54	Randle, Ervin	LB	6-1	250	4	10-12-62	Baylor	12
29	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	182	2	1-19-65	Washington State	12
	Robinson, Mark	S	5-11	206	4	9-13-62	Penn State	*12
26	Shegog, Ronald	CB/S	6-0	195	2	3- 2-64	Austin Peay	*3
93	Sileo, Dan	NT	6-2	282	2	1- 3-64	Miami (Fla.)	10
42	Smalls, Fred	LB	6-2	235	2	1- 7-63	West Virginia	*3
35	Smith, Jeff	RB	5-9	204	4	3-22-62	Nebraska	12
70	Swayne, Harry	DE	6-5	268	2	2- 2-65	Rutgers	8
85	Taylor, Gene	WR	6-2	189	2	11-12-62	Fresno State	7
72	Taylor, Rob	T	6-6	285	3	11-14-60	Northwestern	5
14	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	220	2	11-13-63	Miami (Fla.)	6
24	†Tripoli, Paul	S	6-0	197	2	12-14-61	Alabama	13
50	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	260	3	6-25-62	Wisconsin	13
45	Turpin, Miles	LB	6-4	230	2	5-15-64	California	3
56	Walker, Jackie	LB	6-5	245	3	11- 3-62	Jackson State	12
69	Warne, Jim	T	6-7	300	2	11-27-64	Arizona State	*3
51	Washington, Chris	LB	6-4	230	5	3- 6-62	Iowa State	12
32	Wilder, James	RB	6-3	225	8	5-12-58	Missouri	12
	Williams, Derwin	WR	6-1	185	4	5- 6-61	New Mexico	*10
3	Williams, Keith	RB	5-10	173	2	9- 8-63	Southwest Missouri	*0
19	Wilson, Teddy	WR	5-9	170	2	7-14-64	Central Florida	*3
34	†Wright, Adrian	RB	6-1	230	2	10-13-61	Virginia Union	3
66	†Yarno, George	G	6-2	265	9	8-12-57	Washington State	11

*Bellinger last active with Bills in '86; Bowman played 3 games with Eagles in '87; Brophy played 3 games with Jets in '87; Brown played 3 games with Bears in '87; Cooper played 5 games with Denver, 4 with Tampa Bay in '87; D. Edwards played 3 games with Steelers in '87; R. Edwards played 7 games with Seahawks in '87; Elder last active with Lions and Steelers in '86; D. Evans played 3 games with Vikings in '87; J. Evans played 2 games with Chiefs in '87, active for 1 game with Buccaneers in '87, but did not play; Ferguson active for 12 games with Lions in '87, but did not play; Gill played 1 game with Rams in '87; Herline played 3 games with Patriots in '87; Hunter played 3 games with Jets, 3 games with Buccaneers in '87; Jackson played 7 games with Oilers in '87; D. Jones played 3 games with Cowboys in '87; McInerney played 3 games with Bears in '87; Mumphrey played 3 games with Chiefs in '87; Najarian played 5 games with Vikings in '87; Petty played 3 games with Redskins in '87; Prindle played 3 games with Lions in '87; Robinson played 12 games with Chiefs in '87; Shegog played 3 games with Patriots in '87; Smalls played 3 games with Eagles in '87; Warne played 3 games with Lions in '87; D. Williams played 10 games with Patriots in '87; K. Williams missed '87 season due to injury; Wilson played 3 games with Redskins in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

New Coach Infante hopes to give hungry Packer fans a winning season

By BOB MCGINN
Green Bay Press-Gazette

Four coaches have come and gone since the dynasty decade of Vince Lombardi and still the rebuilding process continues in Green Bay.

Across the street from Lambeau Field, a homeowner paints his picket fence fronting Lombardi Avenue each time a coaching change occurs. After Lindy Infante became the 10th coach in Packers' history last February, the painted message read: "In-fante We Trust."

The Packers, who won five NFL titles in the 1960s, found themselves in the embarrassing position of losing out to two colleges in their coaching search.

Forrest Gregg left Green Bay after four seasons to try to rebuild the scandal-ridden Southern Methodist program. Then Michigan State's George Perles got cold feet and turned down the Packers' offer at the last minute.

Thus, the Packers turned to Infante, the offensive coordinator at Cleveland the last two years and the offensive strategist at Cincinnati in 1981 when Gregg took the Bengals to Super Bowl XVI.

"I didn't take the job to be here two or three years and go out a loser," Infante said. "I took the job with the idea we're going to win, and win soon."

If the Packers should post a winning record in 1988, Infante would enjoy adulation far beyond anything he has experienced in a lifetime of coaching. In short, the town is dying for a winner.

Mediocrity has been the operative word in Green Bay since the Lombardi era. Under Lombardi's four successors—Phil Bengtson, Dan Devine, Bart Starr and Gregg—the team's winning percentage became progressively worse. It has been 21 years since the Packers won their second Super Bowl championship. It has been 16 years since they won more than eight games in a season. It has been 10 years since they had so much as a winning season in a full year (they finished 5-3-1 in the strike-shortened 1982 season), and that was an 8-7-1 mark in 1978.

"Maybe they come in cycles of 10," mused Infante, a native Floridian who received a five-year contract.

Gregg's final two clubs only won seven of 28 non-strike games. He left town with a winning percentage of just .405, not even saying goodbye to his coaching staff or players.

"This team wasn't going anywhere under Forrest," one veteran player said. "It may not with Lindy, either, but at least it has a chance."

Infante's presence should mean an almost automatic upgrade for an offense that ranked 26th in non-strike games.

"People in the league have tried to improvise on Lindy's system and it doesn't



Talented offensive guard Ron Hallstrom (65) and running back Kenneth Davis, shown celebrating a Packer touchdown, could be key figures in Green Bay's hope for 1988 improvement.

work," said Tom Braatz, executive vice president of football operations.

"His style is very, very innovative. I think it'll be fun to watch."

But the Packers need a top-flight quarterback to make Infante's system work, and it's doubtful that they have one.

Infante, who will serve as his own offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, likely will spend his first season finding out whether Randy Wright, Don Majkowski or Robbie Bosco can do the job.

"There is no incumbent," said Infante. "My hope is one of them will take the job early and run with it."

Wright has had more downs than ups in two seasons in which he has started 23 of Green Bay's 28 non-strike games.

Even though Majkowski has more athletic ability and probably a stronger arm, Wright is more cerebral. And brains and savvy will be invaluable attributes for directing Infante's complex offense.

Bosco appears to have recovered from reconstructive shoulder surgery in October '86. A third-round pick two years ago who has yet to take a snap, Bosco will have a final shot to salvage his career in training camp.

Infante's expertise and the addition of wide receiver Sterling Sharpe, the Packers' first-round draft choice, figure to rejuvenate a dormant passing game. Sharpe has the quickness and maneuverability to make big plays. Other threats are Walter Stanley, Frankie Neal and Phillip Epps, who combined for 108 receptions in '87.

The running game, however, could be in a state of disarray.

The Packers used their top choices in the 1986 and '87 drafts on Kenneth Davis and Brent Fullwood because they wanted to build a power-style ground game. But neither back catches the ball well.

Under Infante, who requires that both backs be pass receivers, it remains to be seen whether either will fit in. Fullwood projects as the fullback, or featured runner, but only if he shows more interest in blitz pickup than he did as a rookie. Davis might be the halfback, or H-back, if his all-around game goes up another notch.

Keith Woodside, a No. 3 pick from Texas A&M, and Patrick Collins, an eighth-round pick from Oklahoma, have the speed and hands to play prominent roles as rookies.

The offensive line may be slightly above average if right tackle Keith Uecker can stay healthy and center Mark Cannon rebounds from a so-so year. Right guard Ron Hallstrom and left tackle Ken Ruettggers are among the leaders at their positions in the NFC, and Tom Neville and Rich Moran were adequate as the alternating left guards.

Tight end Ed West, an undersized former free agent, is recognized more for his blocking than his receiving (just 19 receptions a year ago).

Defensively, the Packers have gotten a lot of mileage out of not much talent the past few years. Their No. 11 rank in total defense was testimony more of hard hitting and effort than big plays.

Hank Bullough, who was named to replace Dick Modzelewski as defensive coordinator, probably will have to blitz early and often to mount pressure.

The emphasis on draft day was the defensive line, easily the weakest sector on the club. It wouldn't be surprising to see Shawn Patterson, a No. 2 pick from Arizona State, start ahead of Robert Brown at right end.

"On paper we upgraded our pass rush tremendously," said defensive line coach Greg Blache after the draft. "At some point in his career, if Patterson is not one hell of a football player I'd be shocked and disappointed."

The Packers haven't had a Pro Bowl player on defense since Ezra Johnson in 1978, but linebackers Brian Noble, Tim Harris and Johnny Holland have that kind of potential. Noble is a read-and-react player who's good against the run; Harris has led the club in sacks the past two years and Holland has terrific athletic ability.

The secondary is a problem because starting cornerback Dave Brown is 35 and starting free safety Ken Stills lacks speed. But depth in the secondary is virtually non-existent. Rookie Chuck Cecil of Arizona, the all-time interception leader in the Pac-10, will get a good shot at replacing Stills.

"There's a solid foundation here and it's a relatively young team," said Infante. "I hope we'll be very competitive." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—LOS ANGELES RAMS	12:00
Sept. 11—TAMPA BAY	12:00
Sept. 18—at Miami	1:00
Sept. 25—CHICAGO	12:00
Oct. 2—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct. 9—NEW ENGLAND at Milwaukee	12:00
Oct. 16—at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 23—WASHINGTON at Milwaukee	12:00
Oct. 30—at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 6—at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 13—INDIANAPOLIS	12:00
Nov. 20—DETROIT at Milwaukee	12:00
Nov. 27—at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 4—at Detroit	1:00
Dec. 11—MINNESOTA	12:00
Dec. 18—at Phoenix	2:00

1987 RESULTS—(5-9-1)

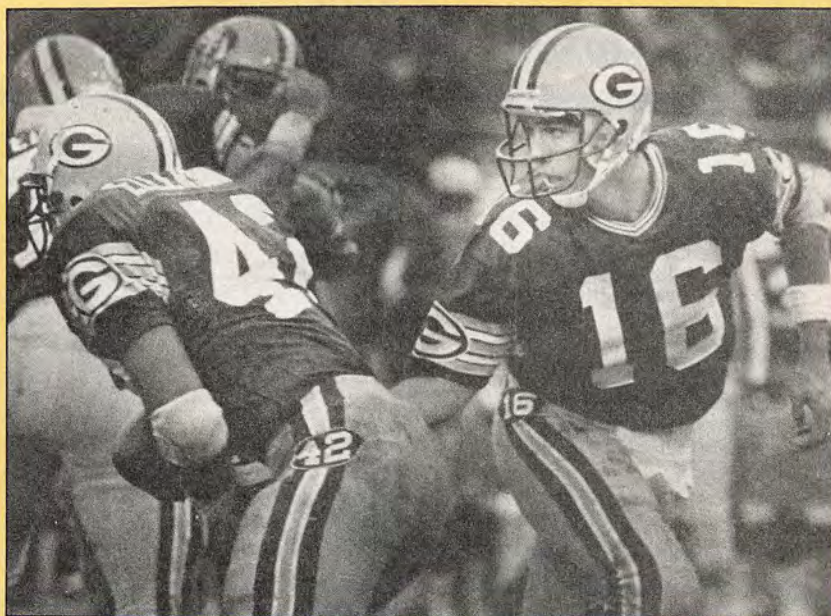
Packers	Opp.	Att.
0 L.A. Raiders	20 (H)	54,983
17 Denver (OT)	17 (H)	50,624
Tampa Bay	(A)	
23 Minnesota	16 (A)	13,911
16 Detroit (OT)	19 (H)	35,779
16 Philadelphia (OT)	10 (H)	35,842
34 Detroit	33 (A)	27,278
17 Tampa Bay	23 (H)	50,308
24 Chicago	26 (H)	53,320
13 Seattle	24 (A)	60,963
23 Kansas City	3 (A)	34,611
10 Chicago	23 (A)	61,638
12 San Francisco	23 (H)	51,118
16 Minnesota	10 (H)	47,059
10 New York Giants	20 (A)	51,013
24 New Orleans	33 (A)	68,364

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. SHARPE, Sterling	WR	South Carolina
2. PATTERSON, Shawn	DT	Arizona State
3. WOODSIDE, Keith	RB	Texas A&M
4. PUTZIER, Rollin	DT	Oregon
from L.A. Raiders		
4. CECIL, Chuck	DB	Arizona
5. REED, Darrell	LB	Oklahoma
6. HILL, Nate	DE	Auburn
7. RICHARD, Gary	DB	Pittsburgh
8. COLLINS, Patrick	RB	Oklahoma
9. WILKINSON, Neal	TE	James Madison
10. KEYES, Bud	QB	Wisconsin
11. Choice to Seattle		
12. BOLTON, Scott	WR	Auburn



Green Bay Packers quarterback Randy Wright.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	228	11	2-14-56	Michigan	12
61	†Boyarisky, Jerry	NT	6-3	290	8	5-15-59	Pittsburgh	12
17	Bracken, Don	P	6-0	211	4	2-16-62	Michigan	12
32	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	197	14	1-16-53	Michigan	12
93	†Brown, Robert	DE	6-2	267	7	5-21-60	Virginia Tech	12
79	†Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	265	11	3-22-54	Notre Dame	11
58	†Cannon, Mark	C	6-3	258	5	6-14-62	Texas-Arlington	12
76	†Carreker, Alphonso	DE	6-6	271	5	5-25-62	Florida State	12
30	Carruth, Paul Ott	RB	6-1	220	3	7-22-61	Alabama	12
69	†Cherry, Bill	C/G	6-4	277	3	1- 5-61	Middle Tennessee State	12
33	†Clark, Jessie	RB	6-0	228	6	1- 3-60	Arkansas	12
64	Collier, Steve	T	6-7	342	2	4-19-63	Bethune-Cookman	10
20	Cook, Kelly	RB	5-10	225	2	8-20-62	Oklahoma State	11
36	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	3	4-16-62	Texas Christian	10
56	Dent, Burnett	LB	6-1	236	3	3-16-63	Tulane	9
99	Dorsey, John	LB	6-2	243	5	8-31-60	Connecticut	12
85	†Epps, Phillip	WR	5-10	165	7	11-11-59	Texas Christian	10
21	Fullwood, Brent	RB	5-11	209	2	10-10-63	Auburn	11
23	†Greene, Tiger	CB/S	6-0	194	4	2-15-62	Western Carolina	11
89	Hackett, Joey	TE	6-5	267	3	9-29-58	Elon College	11
65	†Hallstrom, Ron	G	6-6	290	7	6-11-59	Iowa	12
97	Harris, Tim	LB	6-5	235	3	9-10-64	Memphis State	12
50	Holland, Johnny	LB	6-2	221	2	3-11-65	Texas A&M	12
38	Jefferson, Norman	CB/S	5-10	183	2	8- 7-64	Louisiana State	12
39	Johnson, Kenneth	QB	6-0	185	2	12-28-63	Mississippi State	12
	Kiel, Blair	QB	6-0	200	4	11-29-61	Notre Dame	*4
22	†Lee, Mark	CB/S	5-11	189	9	3-20-58	Washington	12
7	†Majkowski, Don	QB	6-2	197	2	2-25-64	Virginia	7
44	Mandeville, Chris	S	6-1	213	2	2- 1-65	California-Davis	4
98	†Moore, Brent	LB	6-5	242	2	1- 9-63	Southern California	4
57	†Moran, Rich	C/G	6-2	275	4	3-19-62	San Diego State	12
47	Morris, Jim Bob	CB/S	6-3	211	2	5-17-61	Kansas State	11
81	Morris, Lee	WR	5-10	180	2	7-14-64	Oklahoma	5
37	Murphy, Mark	S	6-2	201	7	4-22-58	West Liberty	12
80	Neal, Frankie	WR	6-1	202	2	10- 1-65	Fort Hays State	12
	Nelson, Bob	NT	6-4	275	2	3- 3-59	Miami (Fla.)	*0
72	†Neville, Tom	T/G	6-5	306	3	9- 4-61	Fresno State	12
91	†Noble, Brian	LB	6-3	252	4	9- 6-62	Arizona State	12
82	Paskett, Keith	WR	5-11	180	2	12- 7-64	Western Kentucky	12
	Powe, Karl	WR	6-2	175	3	1-17-62	Alabama State	*0
77	Robison, Tommy	G	6-4	290	2	11-17-61	Texas A&M	3
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-5	280	4	8-20-62	Southern California	12
83	Scott, Patrick	WR	5-10	170	2	9-13-64	Grambling	8
87	†Stanley, Walter	WR/KR	5-9	179	4	11- 5-62	Mesa College (Colo.)	12
54	Stephen, Scott	LB	6-2	232	2	6-18-64	Arizona State	8
29	Stills, Ken	CB/S	5-10	186	4	9- 6-63	Wisconsin	11
48	Summers, Don	TE	6-4	235	3	2-22-61	Boise State	3
92	Thomas, Ben	DE/NT	6-4	275	3	7- 2-61	Auburn	*0
70	Uecker, Keith	G/T	6-5	284	6	6-29-60	Auburn	8
73	†Veingrad, Alan	T-G	6-5	277	3	7-24-63	East Texas State	11
28	Watts, Elbert	CB	6-1	205	2	3-20-63	Southern California	*0
52	†Weddington, Mike	LB	6-4	245	3	10- 9-60	Oklahoma	12
51	Weishuhn, Clayton	LB	6-1	218	5	10- 7-59	Angelo State	9
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	243	5	8- 2-61	Auburn	12
35	Willhite, Kevin	RB	5-11	208	2	5- 4-63	Oregon	3
16	Wright, Randy	QB	6-2	203	5	1-12-61	Wisconsin	9
8	Zendejas, Max	K	5-11	184	3	9- 2-63	Arizona	10

*Kiel played 4 games with Colts in '87; Nelson last active with Buccaneers in '86; Powe last active with Cowboys in '86; Thomas and Watts missed '87 season due to injury.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Lions hope Long odds will help in their do-or-die 1988 campaign

By TOM KOWALSKI
Oakland Press

If every member of the 1988 Detroit Lions does what he is supposed to do, then things should work out pretty well. If some members don't, well, the Lions may be fighting to stay out of the cellar again.

If, if, if...

The reality is that the Lions' 4-11 1987 record was too close to the 4-11-1 mark in 1984 that got former coach Monte Clark fired. And unless the Lions show marked improvement this season, Darryl Rogers, heading into his fourth season as Clark's successor, may follow in his footsteps.

The Lions haven't made a playoff appearance since winning the National Football Conference Central Division title in 1983 and the crowds at the Pontiac Silverdome have grown more sparse each year. This is a do-or-die year for Rogers and his team.

The Lions' hopes start on offense with quarterback Chuck Long, the team's No. 1 draft choice in 1986. He led the league with 20 interceptions in his first year as a starter, but many of Long's mistakes could be attributed to inexperience. He threw 11 touchdown passes, but must become more consistent.

"It takes time for any team with a young quarterback to come together, and that's what you saw (in 1987)," Rogers said.

"In most of our losses we were our own worst enemy. We beat ourselves. A lot of the mistakes we made were not made because of lack of effort, but rather because of lack of experience.

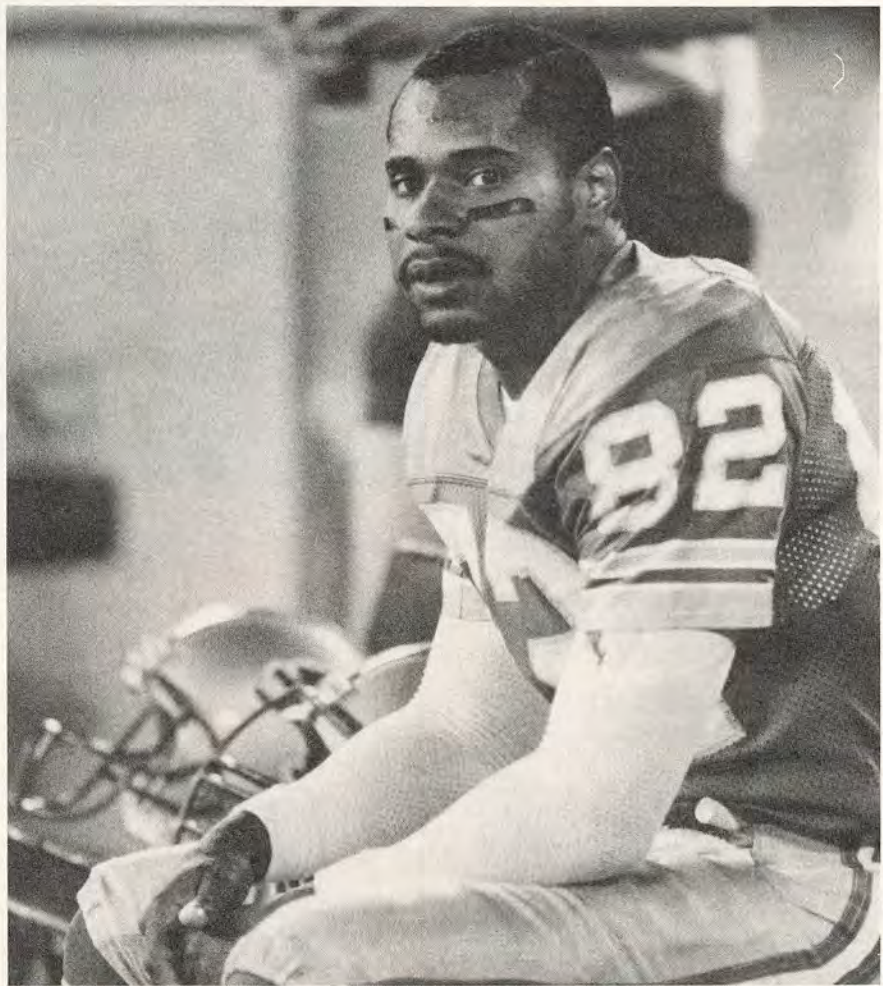
"We got great effort from our players all season and that says something about the character of this team. We played as hard in our last game as we did in the opener."

Of course, Long will need some help from his mates. Running back Garry James, the No. 2 draft pick in '86, had just 270 yards rushing (3.3-yard average) and four touchdowns last season. He started just seven games a year ago and needs to stay healthy.

Fullback James Jones led the Lions with 342 yards rushing, the lowest team-leading total in the league. He also didn't score a touchdown rushing or receiving all season. Jones must regain the form he showed in 1986, when he rushed for 903 yards, caught 54 passes and scored nine touchdowns.

Wide receiver Pete Mandley was the Lions' offensive star with seven touchdowns on 58 receptions. But Jeff Chadwick slipped badly, catching only 30 passes without a touchdown. Chadwick's 13.9-yard per-catch average was the lowest of his five-year NFL career.

That's one of the reasons the Lions grabbed three wide receivers in the draft



Wide receiver Pete Mandley was a bright spot in Detroit's 4-11 season.

last spring: Penn State's Ray Roundtree (third round), Stanford's Jeff James (seventh) and UCLA's Paco Craig (10th). Along with second-round pick Pat Carter, a tight end from Florida State, Long should have plenty of new targets.

The Lions are solid on the offensive line, easily their strongest position. With Lomas Brown and Harvey Salem manning the tackle spots, Detroit has a couple of Pro Bowl-caliber players. Steve Mott is consistent at center while Keith Dorney, a former Pro Bowler at tackle, and Scott Barrows hold down the guard positions. Kevin Glover is a strong backup at guard.

Long was sacked just 17 times in Detroit's 12 non-strike games.

Defensively, the prospects aren't as bright. The Lions yielded 384 points in 1987 (only the Falcons and Chiefs gave up more) and several highly touted players must start producing.

The list starts with Reggie Rogers, the seventh player chosen in the 1987 draft. The right defensive end recorded just six tackles all season, one less than wide receiver Carl Bland. Rogers also was the only member of the non-strike defensive

line who failed to register a sack.

If Rogers can't get his personal problems straightened out and put some life into his young career, the Lions will be without much of a pass rush. Keith Ferguson's six sacks a year ago led all Detroit down linemen. Rookie Jerry Ball had a solid season at nose tackle but is better as a run-stuffer than a pass rusher.

Bobby Watkins started the final five games at cornerback after a nagging foot injury and Devon Mitchell, who led Detroit with five interceptions in 1986 but missed the entire '87 season with a knee injury, may be back at his free safety position.

That would mean that No. 1 draft choice Bennie Blades (Miami, Fla.) would play strong safety, a position occupied for much of 1987 by James Griffin, the Lions' interception leader with six.

The secondary will be coached this season by defensive coordinator Wayne Fontes, which will free former secondary coach Willie Shaw to coach the outside linebackers. Fontes coached the secondary for the final three games last year and the Lions won two of them.

Detroit also should be improved against the run. Chris Spielman, a possible second-round steal from Ohio State, will play inside linebacker along with Dennis Gibson, who led the team with 90 tackles as a rookie. Gibson became the first Detroit rookie to lead the team in that category since tackle statistics have been kept.

One player who will be counted on to revert to old form is kicker Eddie Murray, who suffered through his second straight subpar season. Murray was successful on 20 of 32 field-goal attempts, but scored just 81 points.

The Lions' punting chores should be in good hands with Jim Arnold, who led the NFL with a 39.6 net average. Arnold was so outstanding in 1987 that he was the only Detroit player voted to the NFC Pro Bowl squad.

Unfortunately for the Lions, when your punter is your only player to make the Pro Bowl, it does not bode well for the rest of the team. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—ATLANTA.....	1:00
Sept. 11—at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
Sept. 18—NEW ORLEANS.....	1:00
Sept. 25—NEW YORK JETS.....	1:00
Oct. 2—at San Francisco.....	1:00
Oct. 9—CHICAGO.....	1:00
Oct. 16—at New York Giants.....	1:00
Oct. 23—at Kansas City.....	12:00
Oct. 30—NEW YORK GIANTS.....	1:00
Nov. 6—at Minnesota.....	12:00
Nov. 13—TAMPA BAY.....	1:00
Nov. 20—vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee.....	12:00
Nov. 24—MINNESOTA (Thanksgiving).....	12:30
Dec. 4—GREEN BAY.....	1:00
Dec. 11—at Chicago.....	12:00
Dec. 18—at Tampa Bay.....	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(4-11)

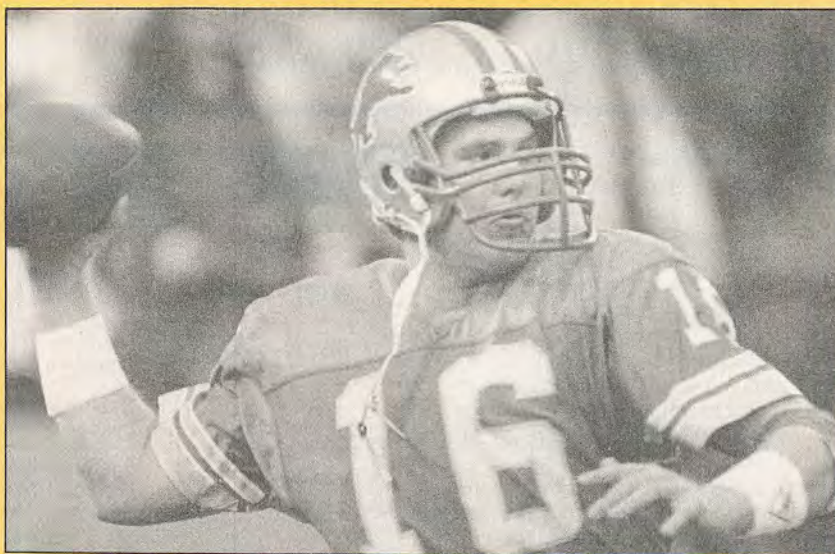
Lions	Opp.	Att.
19 Minnesota.....	34 (A)	57,061
7 L.A. Raiders.....	27 (A)	50,300
Chicago*.....	(H)	
27 Tampa Bay.....	31 (H)	4,919
19 Green Bay (OT).....	16 (A)	35,779
14 Seattle.....	37 (H)	8,310
33 Green Bay.....	34 (H)	27,278
0 Denver.....	34 (A)	75,172
27 Dallas.....	17 (H)	45,325
13 Washington.....	20 (A)	53,593
10 Chicago.....	30 (A)	63,357
20 Kansas City.....	27 (H)	43,820
16 L.A. Rams.....	37 (H)	33,143
20 Tampa Bay.....	10 (A)	41,699
14 Minnesota.....	17 (H)	27,693
30 Atlanta.....	13 (A)	13,906

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice to Kansas City		
1. BLADES, Bennie	DB	Miami (Fla.)
from Kansas City		
2. SPIELMAN, Chris	LB	Ohio State
from Kansas City		
2. CARTER, Pat	TE	Florida State
3. ROUNDTREE, Ray	WR	Penn State
4. WHITE, William	DB	Ohio State
5. ANDOLSEK, Eric	G	Louisiana State
6. PAINTER, Carl	RB	Hampton (Va.)
7. JAMES, Jeff	WR	Stanford
8. HADD, Gary	DE	Minnesota
9. CORRINGTON, Kip	DB	Texas A&M
9. IRVIN, Todd	T	Mississippi
from Philadelphia		
10. CRAIG, Paco	WR	UCLA
11. MCCOIN, Danny	QB	Cincinnati
12. Choice to Indianapolis		



Detroit Lions quarterback Chuck Long.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
6	†Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	6	1-31-61	Vanderbilt	11
68	†Baack, Steve	G	6-4	265	5	11-16-60	Oregon	7
93	Ball, Jerry	NT	6-1	283	2	12-15-64	Southern Methodist	12
61	Barrows, Scott	G/C	6-2	278	3	3-31-63	West Virginia	12
	Benson, Charles	DE	6-1	267	4	11-21-60	Baylor	3
25	Bernard, Karl	RB	5-11	205	2	10-12-64	Southwestern Louisiana	8
80	Bland, Carl	WR	5-11	182	5	8-17-61	Virginia Union	10
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	282	4	3-30-63	Florida	11
96	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	219	3	11- 8-63	Wayne State	12
	Carr, Carl	LB	6-3	230	2	3-26-64	North Carolina	3
89	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	190	6	12-16-60	Grand Valley State	8
45	Cherry, Raphael	S	6-0	194	3	12-19-61	Hawaii	10
55	Cofer, Michael	LB	6-5	245	6	4- 7-60	Tennessee	11
	Davis, Jerome	NT	6-1	260	2	2-27-62	Ball State	3
70	Dorney, Keith	G/T	6-5	285	10	12- 3-57	Penn State	5
42	†Ellerson, Gary	RB/KR	5-11	220	4	7-17-63	Wisconsin	8
77	†Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	260	8	4- 3-59	Ohio State	12
40	†Galloway, Duane	CB/S	5-8	181	3	11- 7-61	Arizona State	10
98	Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	240	2	2- 8-64	Iowa State	12
53	Glover, Kevin	C/G	6-2	267	4	6-17-63	Maryland	12
62	†Green, Curtis	DE/NT	6-3	265	8	6- 3-57	Alabama State	12
34	Griffin, James	S	6-2	197	6	9- 7-61	Middle Tennessee State	12
	Hill, David	TE	6-2	240	12	1- 1-54	Texas A&I	*12
17	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-2	198	8	9-16-57	Utah State	*0
32	James, Garry	RB	5-10	214	3	9- 4-63	Louisiana State	8
95	Jamison, George	LB	6-1	226	2	9-30-62	Cincinnati	12
	Johnson, Earl	CB	6-0	190	2	10-20-63	South Carolina	*3
30	Jones, James	RB	6-2	229	6	3-21-61	Florida	11
87	†Kab, Vyto	TE	6-5	240	6	12-23-59	Penn State	7
83	Lee, Gary	WR/KR	6-1	202	2	2-12-65	Georgia Tech	12
81	Lewis, Mark	TE	6-2	250	3	5- 5-61	Texas A&M	*10
50	Lockett, Danny	LB	6-2	228	2	7-11-64	Arizona	13
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	211	3	2-18-63	Iowa	12
82	Mandley, Pete	WR/KR	5-10	191	5	7-29-61	Northern Arizona	12
57	Maxwell, Vernon	LB	6-2	235	6	10-25-61	Arizona State	12
	McDuffie, George	DE	6-6	270	2	1-20-63	Findlay	3
29	McNorton, Bruce	CB	5-11	175	7	2-28-59	Georgetown (Ky.)	12
74	†Milnichik, Joe	G/T	6-5	275	2	3-30-63	North Carolina State	11
31	Mitchell, Devon	S	6-1	194	2	12-30-62	Iowa	*0
52	Mott, Steve	C	6-3	270	6	3-24-61	Alabama	11
3	Murray, Ed	K	5-10	175	9	8-29-56	Tulane	12
86	Nichols, Mark	WR	6-2	208	7	10-29-59	San Jose State	12
49	†Paige, Tony	RB	5-10	230	5	10-14-62	Virginia Tech	5
51	†Robinson, Shelton	LB	6-2	236	7	9-14-60	North Carolina	12
60	Rogers, Reggie	DE	6-6	272	2	1-21-64	Washington	6
84	Rubick, Rob	TE	6-3	234	7	9-27-60	Grand Valley State	9
97	Saleaumua, Dan	NT	6-0	285	2	11-11-65	Arizona State	9
73	Salem, Harvey	G	6-6	285	6	1-15-61	California	11
64	Sanders, Eric	T/G	6-7	280	8	10-22-58	Nevada-Reno	12
28	Sheffield, Chris	CB	6-1	200	3	1- 9-63	Albany State	*11
41	Smith, Ricky	WR/CB	6-0	188	5	7-20-60	Alabama State	12
	Walker, Kevin	DB	5-11	180	3	10-20-63	East Carolina	*3
27	Watkins, Bobby	CB	5-10	184	7	5-31-60	Southwest Texas State	5
	Wester, Cleve	RB	5-8	188	2	6-14-64	Concordia (Neb.)	3
	Wheeler, Mark	TE	6-2	232	2	6-15-66	Kentucky	3
76	Williams, Eric	NT	6-4	280	5	2-24-62	Washington State	11
59	Williams, Jimmy	LB	6-3	230	7	11-15-60	Nebraska	12
38	†Williams, Scott	RB	6-2	234	3	7-21-62	Georgia	5
21	†Woolfolk, Butch	RB	6-1	212	7	3- 1-60	Michigan	12

*Hill played 12 games with Rams in '87; Hipple and Mitchell missed '87 season due to injury; Johnson played 3 games with Broncos, active for 2 games with Lions in '87; Lewis played 1 game with Packers, 9 with Lions in '87; Sheffield played 5 games with Steelers, 6 with Lions in '87; Walker played 3 games with Buccaneers in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Who dat say dey gonna beat dem Saints? Dem 49ers, dat's who!

By FRANK COONEY
San Francisco Examiner

After years of domination by the Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers, the NFC West Division finally is dancing to a new tune. Call it the "Who dat Boogie," as chanted by the enchanting fans in New Orleans while their Saints went marching into the playoffs last season for the first time in their 21-year existence.

The Saints went 12-3, including nine consecutive victories, but finished one game behind the 49ers and settled for a wild-card berth in the playoffs.

That was enough to earn Jim Mora The Sporting News Coach of the Year honors and turn Owner Tom Benson's boogie after a Saints victory into a sideshow that rivaled Bourbon Street itself.

As the Saints sailed into the playoffs, their fans kept chanting, "Who dat, Who dat, Who dat say dey gonna beat dem Saints?" It's supposed to be a rhetorical lyric.

But then came a sobering response—dem Minnesota Vikings, dat's who. And by a staggering 44-10 score.

But after such a successful season and an impressive draft that deepened an already impressive running game, Saints fans are singing their way into the 1988 season once again . . . "Who dat say dey gonna beat dem Saints?"

According to our preseason song book, the answer is—dem 49ers!

Despite controversy at the teams' two key positions—quarterback and head coach—the 49ers once again should have enough flexibility to win the West. The fast-improving Saints should remain a second-place wild-card team until their secondary is jazzed up. The Rams will change their approach on offense and defense, but still rate a third-place team. And the Atlanta Falcons finally may have named a head coach and a starting quarterback, but are a long way from competing for a playoff berth with the Saints and 49ers.

Surely you remember the 49ers, who finished the 1987 regular season with the best record in the NFL, 13-2, one game ahead of the Saints. San Francisco also was wallowed in the playoffs by the Vikings, 36-24. It marked the 49ers' third consecutive first-round playoff knockout since winning Super Bowl XIX. It also spawned a controversy at the two positions that have been the team's strengths in this decade.

Joe Montana, who has guided the 49ers to two Super Bowl championships and made a remarkable comeback in 1986 from back surgery, is supposed to be pressed for the starting quarterback job by fast-footed lefty Steve Young. This is based on that playoff loss to the Vikings,

TSN's Predictions

FINISH	COMMENT
1. San Francisco	Just when many count 49ers out, they'll be back. Enough adjustments will be made to hold off Saints.
2. New Orleans	A race to the finish but Saints fall short. Questions remain about ground game and big-play passing attack.
3. L.A. Rams	Quarterback Jim Everett is key to Rams' chances. Rift must also be healed among players and front office.
4. Atlanta	Infusion of young talent will make Falcons hungry and improved, but several notches below competition.

when Montana was yanked from a game for the first time in his career for a reason other than injury.

In March, Owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. seemed to validate the fact that Montana and Head Coach Bill Walsh were no longer the team's exalted untouchables. First DeBartolo listened to trade offers for Montana. Then he gave Walsh a new contract that was only for two years and no longer included the title of president.

It made for lively off-season chatter, but a review of the 1987 season leaves no reason to believe that Walsh and Montana cannot lead the 49ers to another division championship.

In fact, 1987 may have been Walsh's best year as a coach, all things considered. And Montana merely finished as the league's top-rated passer, throwing a team-record 31 touchdown passes.

Of course, Montana had significant help from wide receiver Jerry Rice, who set an NFL record with 22 touchdown catches in only 12 games. Significantly, Rice was the only offensive player who started every game at the same position.

By choice or by chance, the 49ers made changes at 17 of their 22 starting positions between training camp and the playoffs last season. And Walsh admits the 49ers still are unsettled at as many as 13 positions—not counting quarterback. The key area of concern is the offensive line, where guard-turned center Randy Cross and second-year right tackle Harris Barton are the only sure starters.

On defense, the 49ers famed situation substitution schemes have been diluted because the former subs are now starters, and depth is lacking, especially at linebacker.

But Walsh is counting on help from his two second-round draftees, defensive ends Danny Stubbs of Miami (Fla.) and Pierce Holt of Angelo State, to slow the running games of the competition.

The Saints' ground game has become even more formidable with the addition of draftees Craig Heyward of Pittsburgh and Lydell Carr of Oklahoma to go along with Rueben Mayes, recuperating nicely from knee surgery, and Dalton Hilliard. Mayes and Hilliard made it easier for quarter-

back Bobby Hebert to have his best NFL season in 1987.

Hebert made more big plays than big mistakes for a change. In fact, Hebert threw only nine interceptions in 294 passes, albeit mostly short stuff. Mora plans to stretch the field and Hebert's arm this year with the addition of second-round draftee Brett Perriman, a deep threat from Miami (Fla.)

Defensively, New Orleans has one of the best linebacking units in the league, but the secondary is still so slow that it should carry a caution sign: "Beware, Combustible Material."

The Rams head into the 1988 season experimenting with changes on both offense and defense. Head Coach John Robinson indicates he will open up his passing game, featuring quarterback Jim Everett and a crew of wide receivers including draftees Aaron Cox of Arizona State and Willie (Flipper) Anderson of UCLA.

But when the going gets rough, watch for the Rams to stick to the ground with their White and Green attack—veteran Charles White and first-round draftee Gaston Green.

On defense, Robinson says he will abandon the percentage-oriented, 3-4 zone concept. He wants to cause confusion with an unusual lineup featuring just two true linemen and a bunch of blitz or cover guys.

It's a spinoff of the Chicago Bears' defense but does not appear to be sound against the run. While it may pose problems for Montana, this defense could be torn to shreds by Mayes and Hilliard and Gerald Riggs of Atlanta.

Ah yes, the Falcons. Last and, once again, least. Coach Marion Campbell seems pleased with the defensive speed added via the draft in linebackers Aundray Bruce of Auburn and Marcus Cotton of Southern California and cornerback Charles Dimry of Nevada-Las Vegas.

And Campbell seems satisfied that last year's top pick, Chris Miller, may be ready to take over at quarterback.

But who is going to catch his passes? Once again, it may be up to Riggs to keep the offense moving, although that shouldn't take Atlanta further than last place in this division. ■

49ers hope to shake off embarrassment of surprising 1987 playoff ouster

By TOM FITZGERALD
San Francisco Chronicle

Although the New Orleans Saints are vastly improved and the Los Angeles Rams finally seem committed to throwing the ball as well as running it, the San Francisco 49ers remain the team to beat in the National Football Conference's West Division.

Their shocking 36-24 playoff loss to the Minnesota Vikings didn't erase the 49ers' NFL-best 13-2 regular-season record, but it undoubtedly sharpens their appetite for the 1988 season, especially the October 30 rematch with the Vikings.

Like all teams, the 49ers have a few troublesome areas, but there's plenty of talent as Coach Bill Walsh enters his 10th year at the helm. For one thing, there are two excellent quarterbacks, which can be either good or bad, depending on your point of view.

Whether perennial Pro Bowler Joe Montana repeats his excellent 1987 regular season or yields some playing time to the up-and-coming Steve Young, the San Francisco quarterback will be throwing to the one of the best wide receivers in football—All-Pro Jerry Rice. In just his third pro season, the NFL's Most Valuable Player caught a record 22 touchdown passes in 1987 and led the NFL in scoring with 138 points.

A surprisingly muscular ground game gave the 49ers their first NFL rushing title in 34 years, despite an offensive line that was revamped because of injuries. Oddly, the 49ers scored only seven rushing touchdowns, three in the 12 non-strike games.

The 49ers made it clear in the draft where they needed the most help. After trading their first-round pick for Raiders wide receiver Dokie Williams, they loaded up on defense. That might have seemed strange to the casual fan since the 49ers were the first team since Dallas in 1977 to lead the league in defense as well as offense.

But the most disquieting development last season was the passivity of the defensive line. The 49ers ranked 17th in the league with 37 sacks, and their two top sackers of 1986, Jeff Stover and Charles Haley, all but disappeared.

Haley has been switched from end to strong-side linebacker, and his spot in the nickel defensive line probably will be filled by top draft pick Dan Stubbs of the University of Miami. Some scouts questioned Stubbs' consistency and ability to defend against the run. The 49ers, however, had considered trading up in the first round to get him; as it was, they traded that choice for Williams and still got Stubbs, six picks into the second round.

Another pressing need was for a brutish end for the 3-4 base defense. The 49ers



The 49ers need a return to form by pass rusher Jeff Stover.

think they found their man in 280-pound Pierce Holt, who may be the ultimate late bloomer. A 180-pounder in high school, he worked in construction and farming for four years before attending Division II Angelo (Tex.) State. He enters the NFL as a 26-year-old rookie.

If the oft-injured Kevin Fagan can stay healthy, he may start alongside Pro Bowl nose tackle Michael Carter and Holt in the three-man front. Holt is an exceptional pass rusher and solid against the run. In the nickel, he may team up with Stover, Stubbs and 31-year-old Dwaine Board, who had just two sacks in 1987 after eight the year before.

Some people feel the 49ers' best find in the draft was Boston College linebacker Bill Romanowski in the third round. He can play inside or outside. Riki Ellison, the club's leading tackler in 1984 and '85 and second best in '86, missed almost all of last season with a broken arm. He'll battle incumbents Mike Walter and Jim Fahnhorst on the inside, a spot that the club thinks needs upgrading.

Depending on how well weak-side linebacker Keena Turner has recovered from major knee surgery and how well Haley adapts to a new position, the defense should be in excellent shape.

The secondary is one of the best in football as long as free safety Ronnie Lott, the aging one-man wrecking crew, doesn't disintegrate on one of his devastating hits. Jeff Fuller, who took over the strong safety spot in 1987, is probably the team's best athlete, and third-year men Don Griffin and Tim McKyer are excellent cornerbacks.

For the fourth straight year and the fifth time in the last six, the 49ers led the

NFC in total yards. As long as Rice stays healthy, a repeat performance is not unlikely.

Finding a complement to Rice on the other side of the field, however, hasn't been easy. Dwight Clark, the dependable workhorse with the velvet hands, has retired after nine seasons. Mike Wilson lacks elusiveness, and the club was unsuccessful last training camp with free-agent veterans Johnny (Lam) Jones and Tony Hill. The 49ers felt Williams, who caught 148 passes in five years with the Raiders, was better than any receiver they could have gotten with their late first-round draft pick.

The emergence of bruising fullback Tom Rathman in an all-Nebraska running tandem with Roger Craig paid large dividends for a team unaccustomed to a successful running game. Craig rushed for 815 yards and led NFL running backs with 66 catches. Rathman is one of the league's most devastating blockers.

For the most part, the offensive line assembled by assistant coach Bobb McKittrick played very well despite the wholesale changes. Rookie Harris Barton moved in at right tackle for the now-retired Keith Fahnhorst, and only Randy Cross (who moved from guard to center) and left tackle Bubba Paris (who lost, then regained his job from Steve Wallace) survived the shuffle. The line should be better with the return of guards Guy McIntyre and Jeff Bregel, both of whom missed most of last season with injuries.

Like Clark and Fahnhorst, veteran tight end Russ Francis is gone, and the 49ers would like to find somebody to fill his

Continued

NFC WEST

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

NFC WEST

shoes. John Frank, Ron Heller and Brent Jones are the holdovers, but none will remind anybody of Francis in his prime.

The 49ers demonstrated the diminishing stock of punter Max Runager and kicker Ray Wersching by drafting Colorado punter Barry Helton in the fourth round and Georgia Southern kicker Tim Foley in the 10th. Year after year, brothers-in-law Runager and Wersching have survived preseason threats, but time may be running out on one or both.

There was a major shift in the front office during the off-season. Owner Edward DeBartolo Jr. reclaimed the president's title from Walsh, feeling that Walsh was being stretched too thin. Walsh's staff, however, remained intact, somewhat surprising since both defensive coordinator George Seifert and receivers coach Dennis Green were considered top candidates for head coaching jobs. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at New Orleans	12:00
Sept. 11—at New York Giants	1:00
Sept. 18—ATLANTA	1:00
Sept. 25—at Seattle	1:00
Oct. 2—DETROIT	1:00
Oct. 9—DENVER	1:00
Oct. 16—at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
Oct. 24—at Chicago (Mon.)	8:00
Oct. 30—MINNESOTA	1:00
Nov. 6—at Phoenix	2:00
Nov. 13—LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	1:00
Nov. 21—WASHINGTON (Mon.)	6:00
Nov. 27—at San Diego	1:00
Dec. 4—at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 11—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 18—LOS ANGELES RAMS	5:00

1987 RESULTS—(13-3)

49ers	Opp.	Att.
17 Pittsburgh	30 (A)	55,735
27 Cincinnati	26 (A)	53,490
Philadelphia*	(H)	
41 New York Giants	21 (A)	16,471
25 Atlanta	17 (A)	8,684
34 St. Louis	28 (H)	38,094
24 New Orleans	22 (A)	60,497
31 L.A. Rams	10 (A)	55,328
27 Houston	20 (H)	59,740
24 New Orleans	26 (H)	60,436
24 Tampa Bay	10 (A)	63,211
38 Cleveland	24 (H)	60,248
23 Green Bay	12 (A)	51,118
41 Chicago	0 (H)	63,509
35 Atlanta	7 (H)	54,698
48 L.A. Rams	0 (H)	57,950

NFC SEMIFINAL GAME

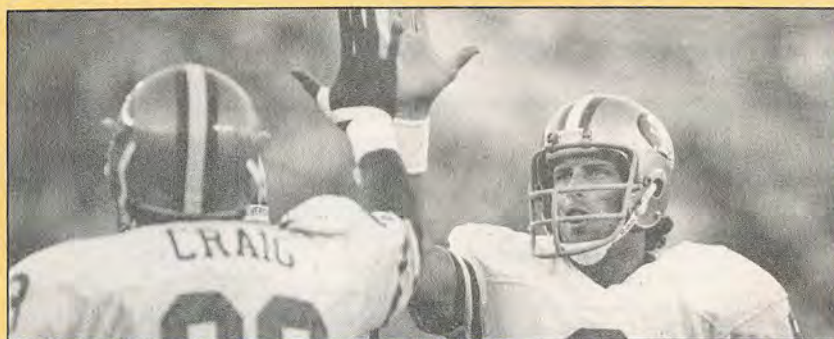
24 Minnesota	36 (H)	62,547
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice to L.A. Raiders		
2. STUBBS, Danny	DE	Miami (Fla.)
from L.A. Raiders		
2. HOLT, Pierce	DT	Angelo State
from Philadelphia through Tampa Bay		
3. Choice to Tampa Bay		
3. ROMANOWSKI, Bill	LB	Boston College
4. HELTON, Barry	P	Colorado
from Houston through L.A. Raiders		
4. Choice to Tampa Bay		
5. Choice to Buffalo		
6. Choice to Tampa Bay		
7. BRYANT, Kevin	LB	Delaware State
8. CLARKSON, Larry	T	Montana
9. BONNER, Brian	LB	Minnesota
10. FOLEY, Tim	K	Ga. Southern
11. BROOKS, Chet	DB	Texas A&M
12. MIRA, George	LB	Miami (Fla.)



San Francisco running back Roger Craig and quarterback Steve Young.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
	Bartalo, Steve	RB	5-9	200	2	7-15-64	Colorado State	*9
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	280	2	4-19-64	North Carolina	12
	Berry, Ed	DB	5-10	183	2	9-28-63	Utah State	*2
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	248	9	11-29-56	North Carolina A&T	14
65	Bregel, Jeff	G	6-4	280	2	5- 1-64	Southern California	5
95	Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	5	10-29-60	Southern Methodist	12
69	†Collie, Bruce	T/G	6-6	275	4	6-27-62	Texas-Arlington	11
59	Comeaux, Darren	LB	6-1	227	7	4-15-60	Arizona State	8
52	Cooper, George	LB	6-2	225	2	12-24-58	Michigan State	10
33	Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	224	6	7-10-60	Nebraska	14
83	†Crawford, Derrick	WR/KR	5-10	185	2	9- 3-60	Memphis State	*0
28	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	193	8	1- 5-58	Auburn	11
51	Cross, Randy	G	6-3	265	13	4-25-54	UCLA	12
57	Dean, Kevin	LB	6-1	235	2	2- 5-65	Texas Christian	4
25	DuBose, Doug	RB	5-11	190	1	3-14-64	Nebraska	2
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	225	6	8-15-60	Southern California	3
75	Fagan, Kevin	DE	6-3	260	2	4-25-63	Miami (Fla.)	7
32	Flagler, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	2	9-24-64	Clemson	3
86	Frank, John	TE	6-3	225	5	4-17-62	Ohio State	12
49	Fuller, Jeff	S/LB	6-2	216	5	8- 8-62	Texas A&M	14
11	Gagliano, Bob	QB	6-3	205	5	9- 5-58	Utah State	3
	Gamache, Vince	P	5-11	176	3	11-18-61	Fullerton State	*3
93	Glover, Clyde	DE	6-6	280	2	7-16-60	Fresno State	13
	Greer, Terry	WR	6-1	192	3	9-27-57	Alabama State	3
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	3	3-17-64	Middle Tennessee State	12
54	Hadley, Ron	LB	6-2	240	2	11- 9-63	Washington	3
94	Haley, Charles	DE/LB	6-5	230	3	1- 6-64	James Madison	12
89	Heller, Ron	TE	6-3	235	2	9-18-62	Oregon State	13
46	Holmoe, Tom	S	6-2	195	5	3- 7-60	Brigham Young	11
88	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	2	2-12-63	Santa Clara	4
67	Kugler, Pete	NT/DE	6-4	255	6	8- 9-59	Penn State	11
	Lewis, David	TE	6-3	235	5	6- 8-61	California	*5
42	†Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	8	5- 8-59	Southern California	12
84	Margerum, Ken	WR	6-0	180	6	10- 5-58	Stanford	2
53	†McColl, Milt	LB	6-6	230	8	8-28-59	Stanford	12
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	264	5	2-17-61	Georgia	3
22	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	174	3	9- 5-63	Texas-Arlington	12
97	Mikolas, Doug	NT	6-1	270	2	6- 7-62	Portland State	8
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	10	6-11-56	Notre Dame	13
20	Nixon, Tory	CB	5-11	186	4	4-24-62	San Diego State	12
77	Paris, Bubba	T	6-6	299	6	10- 6-60	Michigan	11
	Poe, Johnnie	S	6-1	194	8	8-29-59	Missouri	*12
56	†Quillian, Fred	C	6-5	266	11	1-27-56	Oregon	11
44	Rathman, Tom	RB	6-1	232	3	10- 7-62	Nebraska	12
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	4	10-13-62	Mississippi Valley State	12
	Richardson, Eric	WR	6-1	183	3	4-18-62	San Jose State	*0
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	264	3	6- 2-63	Alabama	11
	Robinson, Greg	T	6-5	285	3	12-25-62	Cal Sta.-Sacramento	*3
	Rodgers, Del	RB	5-10	202	4	6-22-60	Utah	7
4	†Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	10	3-24-56	South Carolina	12
61	†Sapolu, Jesse	G/C	6-4	260	3	3-10-61	Hawaii	12
	Scott, Chuck	WR	6-2	202	2	5-24-63	Vanderbilt	*2
90	†Shell, Todd	LB	6-4	225	4	6-24-62	Brigham Young	6
72	Stover, Jeff	DE	6-5	275	7	5-22-58	Oregon	12
24	Sydney, Harry	RB	6-0	217	2	6-26-59	Kansas	14
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	2	3-31-62	Delaware State	12
60	Thomas, Chuck	C	6-3	280	3	12-24-60	Oklahoma	7
41	Thomas, Sean	S/CB	5-11	192	2	4-12-62	Texas Christian	*0
58	†Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	222	9	10-22-58	Purdue	10
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	3	12-27-64	Auburn	11
99	Walter, Michael	LB	6-3	238	6	11-30-60	Oregon	12
14	Wersching, Ray	K	5-11	215	16	8-21-50	California	12
	Williams, Dokie	WR	5-11	180	6	8-25-60	UCLA	*11
27	†Williamson, Carlton	S	6-0	204	8	6-12-58	Pittsburgh	8
85	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	215	8	12-19-58	Washington State	11
21	Wright, Eric	CB	6-1	185	7	4-18-59	Missouri	2
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	200	4	10-11-61	Brigham Young	8

*Bartalo played 9 games with Buccaneers in '87; Crawford and Thomas missed '87 season due to injury; Berry played 2 games with Chargers in '87; Gamache played 3 games with Raiders in '87; Lewis played 5 games with Dolphins in '87; Poe played 12 games with Saints in '87; Richardson last active with Bills in '86; Robinson played 3 games with Patriots in '87; Scott played 2 games with Cowboys in '87; Williams played 11 games with Raiders in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Dwight Clark, 9-year wide receiver, 13 games in '87; Keith Fahnhorst, 14-year tackle, 3 games in '87.

Saints must answer tough question: How do you follow dream-come-true season?

By JIMMY SMITH
New Orleans Times Picayune

Once you've reached heaven, where do you go next? For long-suffering followers of the New Orleans Saints, the 1987 season was almost like heaven. And topping the stirring accomplishments of the '87 season will be awfully difficult. Jim Mora, the 10th head coach in the franchise's 21-year history and the only one ever to have a winning season and playoff appearance, knows it'll be tough to repeat the breakthrough season of 1987.

"We may be a better football team than we were last year, but we might not win as many games," said Mora, whose Saints were 12-3 in the strike-shortened regular season, the NFL's second-best record behind the 13-2 record posted by NFC Western Division rival San Francisco. The Saints won their last nine regular-season games, the longest winning streak in the league last year.

"One game (the playoff loss) should not detract from the accomplishments of the 1987 Saints," Mora said after the season. "This team did more, far more, than anyone gave them a chance to do."

"Winning 12 games in the National Football League, and winning nine in a row, that's just really tough to do." And even tougher to do again.

To begin with, there's uncertainty in what, for the last two seasons, has been the bread and butter of the Saints: the running game. The club's leading rusher the past two years, tailback Rueben Mayes, underwent reconstructive knee surgery two days after the Saints' 44-10 wild-card game loss to the Minnesota Vikings in January. It marked the second straight year that Mayes underwent post-season surgery.

After a Rookie-of-the-Year 1986 season in which he rushed for 1,353 yards, Mayes underwent surgery for a frayed left Achilles tendon.

What was initially thought to be minor ligament damage last January—after Mayes' right knee sustained a blow from former Washington State teammate Keith Millard of the Vikings—turned out to be damage to the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments. It's unclear whether Mayes' knee will be healed sufficiently when training camp opens in July.

Because of that, the Saints made University of Pittsburgh fullback Craig (Ironhead) Heyward their first-round choice in the April draft, and picked Oklahoma fullback Lydell Carr, a bruising 6-foot, 226-pounder, in the fourth round. Heyward, at 5-11, 260, has the versatility to play either fullback or tailback.

If Mayes is healthy, Heyward likely will be the starting fullback, shoring up, perhaps, the team's weakest position. Last



Leading rusher Rueben Mayes will be returning after off-season surgery.

year, fullbacks Barry Word and Buford Jordan, both converted tailbacks, combined for just 169 rushing yards. Having a back such as Heyward in front of him will take some of the inside rushing pressure off Mayes, who performs his best sweeping the ends.

Should Mayes be unable to play, Heyward would be the tailback, making Carr a candidate to start at fullback.

Regardless of the running game, the Saints must improve on a passing attack that ranked 21st in the league last year.

Bobby Hebert became the first Saints starting quarterback since Archie Manning a decade earlier to throw fewer than 10 interceptions in a season. (His nine interceptions were the fewest among NFC quarterbacks who started at least 12 games.) But Hebert, who threw just 15 touchdown passes, has had no deep threat at wide receiver to keep the opposing defenses honest.

To that end, the Saints drafted Miami (Fla.) wide receiver Brett Perriman with their second-round choice. And they wasted no time in signing him to a three-year, \$750,000 contract in mid-May. Perriman ran a 4.3 40-yard dash for pro scouts at the national scouting combine in Indianapolis in January and should give the Saints the speed necessary to throw deep. That will keep opposing defenses honest enough to open up the underneath routes that most defenses took away last year.

"These two players (Heyward and Perriman) can help us immediately," Saints President/General Manager Jim Finks said.

The offensive line will be anchored by tackles Stan Brock and Jim Dombrowski, guards Brad Edelman and Steve Trapilo and center Joel Hilgenberg. Edelman

played in his first Pro Bowl last season. Veteran center Steve Korte missed most of last year after suffering a preseason shoulder injury, but should be ready for '88.

The New Orleans defense led the NFL with a plus-20 turnover ratio last year, seven more than runner-up Philadelphia. But in the latter stages of the season, the defense had trouble stopping the opposition. In the last four regular-season games, the Saints allowed 92 points, and the Vikings scored 44 in the wild-card game.

But don't look for the Saints to make many defensive changes, except perhaps in the secondary. New Orleans drafted four defensive backs in 1987, all of whom made the team. Depth at cornerback suffered a jolt in May when Reggie Sutton, who missed a season because of personal troubles, was released. Sutton tied for the team lead with cornerback Dave Waymer in interceptions with five in 1987. As a team, New Orleans intercepted an NFL-high 30 passes. Second-year man Milton Mack will push for a starting job.

The Saints' linebackers are set, led by Pro Bowler Sam Mills on the left inside and Rickey Jackson, a former Pro Bowler, on the right outside. On the right side are Vaughan Johnson and Pat Swilling, who give the Saints four starting linebackers that are among the best in football. Jackson and Swilling combined for 20 quarterback sacks last year.

With placekicker Morten Andersen and punter Brian Hansen, New Orleans also has one of the league's best kicking duos. Andersen booted an NFL-high 28 field goals and scored 121 points last season in

Continued

earning a third straight trip to the Pro Bowl. Hansen averaged 40.5 yards a punt and didn't have a kick blocked all season. He's been a Pro Bowl player in the past and, at 27, is capable of being one again.

Third-year player Mel Gray, who was the NFL's second-best kickoff returner in 1986, showed his versatility by leading the league with a 14.7-yard average in punt returns.

Although the Saints are counting on productive rookie seasons from Heyward, Perriman and possibly Carr and third-round pick Tony Stephens, a defensive tackle, the Saints' 1988 success will depend for the most part on those who performed so well in '87.

"It's going to be awfully difficult this year for a youngster to make this ball club," Mora said. "That means we're improving as a team. I like that."

So do the fans. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—SAN FRANCISCO.....	12:00
Sept. 11—at Atlanta.....	1:00
Sept. 18—at Detroit.....	1:00
Sept. 25—TAMPA BAY.....	12:00
Oct. 3—DALLAS (Mon.).....	8:00
Oct. 9—at San Diego.....	1:00
Oct. 16—at Seattle.....	1:00
Oct. 23—LOS ANGELES RAIDERS.....	12:00
Oct. 30—LOS ANGELES RAMS.....	12:00
Nov. 6—at Washington.....	4:00
Nov. 13—at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
Nov. 20—DENVER.....	12:00
Nov. 27—NEW YORK GIANTS.....	7:00
Dec. 4—at Minnesota.....	12:00
Dec. 11—at San Francisco.....	1:00
Dec. 18—ATLANTA.....	12:00

1987 RESULTS—(12-4)

Saints	Opp.	Att.
28 Cleveland.....	21 (H)	59,900
17 Philadelphia.....	27 (A)	57,485
Atlanta.....	(H)	
37 L.A. Rams.....	10 (H)	29,745
19 St. Louis.....	24 (A)	11,795
19 Chicago.....	17 (A)	46,813
22 San Francisco.....	24 (H)	60,497
38 Atlanta.....	0 (A)	42,196
31 L.A. Rams.....	14 (A)	43,379
26 San Francisco.....	24 (A)	60,436
23 New York Giants.....	14 (H)	67,639
20 Pittsburgh.....	16 (A)	47,896
44 Tampa Bay.....	34 (H)	66,471
24 Houston.....	10 (H)	68,257
41 Cincinnati.....	24 (A)	43,424
33 Green Bay.....	24 (H)	68,364

NFC WILD-CARD GAME

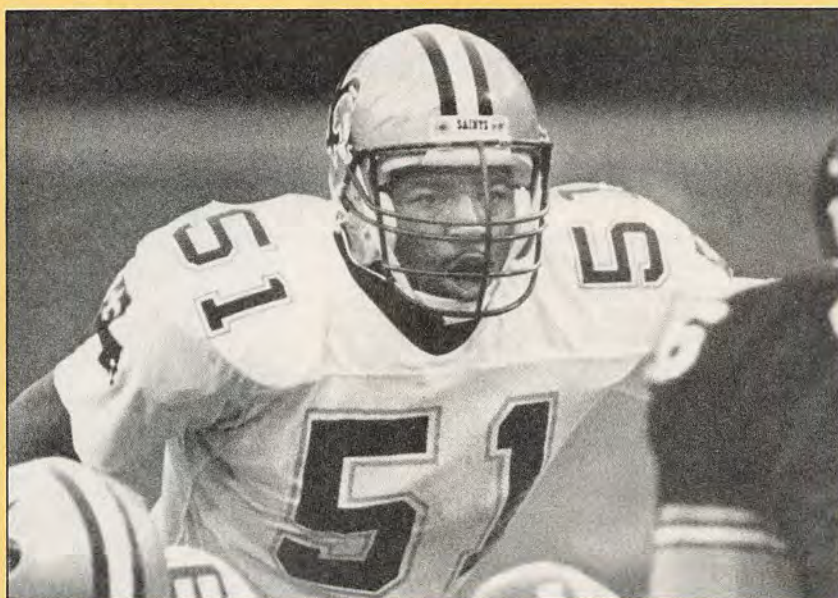
10 Minnesota.....	44 (H)	68,127
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. HEYWARD, Craig	RB	Pittsburgh
2. PERRIMAN, Brett	WR	Miami (Fla.)
3. Choice to Denver		
3. STEPHENS, Tony	NT	Clemson
from Denver		
4. CARR, Lydell	RB	Oklahoma
5. SCALES, Greg	TE	Wake Forest
from Kansas City		
5. TAYLOR, Keith	DB	Illinois
6. SIMS, Bob	G	Florida
7. FORDE, Brian	LB	Washington St.
8. DERBY, Glenn	T	Wisconsin
9. NUNN, Clarence	DB	San Diego St.
10. SANTOS, Todd	QB	San Diego St.
10. FIZER, Vincent	LB	Southern U.
from Denver		
11. COUCH, Gary	WR	Minnesota
12. JURGENSEN, Paul	DE	Georgia Tech



New Orleans Saints linebacker Sam Mills.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
40	Adams, Michael	CB	5-10	195	2	4- 5-64	Arkansas State	7
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	7	8-19-60	Michigan State	12
28	Atkins, Gene	CB/S	6-1	200	2	8-31-64	Florida A&M	13
83	Benson, Cliff	TE	6-4	240	4	8-28-61	Purdue	*10
85	†Brenner, Hoby	TE	6-4	240	8	6- 2-59	Southern California	12
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	292	9	6- 8-58	Colorado	12
59	Campen, James	C	6-3	260	2	6-11-64	Tulane	3
	Caron, Roger	G	6-5	275	3	6- 3-62	Harvard	*0
75	Clark, Bruce	DE	6-3	275	7	3-31-58	Penn State	15
89	Clark, Robert	WR	5-11	175	1	8- 6-65	North Carolina Central	2
	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	225	11	3-29-56	Kansas State	*12
66	Commiskey, Chuck	G	6-4	290	3	3- 2-58	Mississippi	12
70	Contz, Bill	T	6-5	270	3	5-12-61	Penn State	3
41	Cook, Toi	S	5-11	188	2	12- 3-64	Stanford	7
26	Dawsey, Stacey	WR	5-9	154	2	10-24-65	Indiana	3
	DeForest, Joe	LB	6-1	240	2	4-17-65	Southwestern Louisiana	3
72	Dombrowski, Jim	T	6-5	298	3	10-19-63	Virginia	10
63	†Edelman, Brad	G	6-6	270	7	9- 3-60	Missouri	11
99	Elliott, Tony	NT	6-2	295	7	4-28-59	North Texas State	14
11	Fourcade, John	QB	6-1	208	2	10-11-60	Mississippi	3
97	†Geathers, James	DE	6-7	290	4	4-26-60	Wichita State	1
27	†Gibson, Antonio	S	6-3	204	3	7- 5-62	Cincinnati	10
77	Gilbert, Daren	T	6-6	295	4	10- 3-63	Fullerton State	6
37	†Gray, Mel	RB	5-9	166	3	3-16-61	Purdue	12
10	Hansen, Brian	P	6-3	209	5	10-18-60	Sioux Falls	12
	Harris, Herbert	WR	6-1	206	2	5- 4-61	Lamar	2
92	Haynes, James	LB	6-2	233	5	8- 9-60	Mississippi Valley	12
3	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	4	8-19-60	Northwestern State (La.)	12
61	Hiigenberg, Joel	C/G	6-2	252	5	7-10-62	Iowa	12
87	Hill, Lonzell	WR	5-11	189	2	9-25-65	Washington	10
21	Hilliard, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	3	1-21-64	Louisiana State	12
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	8	3-20-58	Pittsburgh	12
22	†Jakes, Van	CB	6-0	190	5	5-10-61	Kent State	12
	Jean-Batiste, Garland	FB	6-0	208	2	4- 2-65	Louisiana State	3
53	†Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6-3	235	3	3-24-62	North Carolina State	12
86	Jones, Mike	WR	5-11	183	6	4-14-60	Tennessee State	12
23	†Jordan, Buford	RB	6-0	223	3	6-26-62	McNeese State	12
71	Kaplan, Ken	T	6-5	270	4	1-12-60	New Hampshire	3
78	Knight, Shawn	DE	6-6	288	2	6- 4-64	Brigham Young	10
55	†Kohlbrand, Joe	LB	6-4	242	4	3-18-63	Miami (Fla.)	12
60	†Korte, Steve	C	6-2	260	6	1-15-60	Arkansas	3
24	Mack, Milton	CB	5-11	182	2	9-20-63	Alcorn State	13
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	4	11- 8-61	Louisiana State	15
39	†Maxie, Brett	S	6-2	194	4	1-13-62	Texas Southern	12
36	Mayes, Rueben	RB	5-11	200	3	6-16-63	Washington State	12
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	3	6- 3-59	Montclair State	12
88	†Pattison, Mark	WR	6-2	190	3	12-12-61	Washington	9
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	3	10-25-64	Georgia Tech	12
69	Swoopes, Patrick	NT	6-4	280	2	3- 4-64	Mississippi State	9
82	Tice, John	TE	6-5	249	6	6-22-60	Maryland	12
54	Toles, Alvin	LB	6-1	227	4	3-23-63	Tennessee	12
65	Trapilo, Steve	G	6-5	281	2	9-20-64	Boston College	11
73	†Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	290	8	9-14-59	Auburn	12
33	Waters, Mike	TE	6-2	230	3	3-15-62	San Diego State	5
44	Waymer, Dave	CB	6-1	188	8	7- 1-58	Notre Dame	12
94	Wilks, Jim	DE	6-5	266	8	3-12-58	San Diego State	12
18	Wilson, Dave	QB	6-3	206	7	4-27-59	Illinois	4
34	Word, Barry	RB	6-2	220	2	7-17-64	Virginia	12

*Benson played 2 games with Redskins, 8 with Saints in '87; Caron last active with Colts in '86; Coffman played 12 games with Chiefs in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Rams are ready to take first step on long road back to respectability

By DON SEEHOLZER

The Los Angeles Rams began the 1987 season with Super Bowl aspirations. They ended it in a fog. A brief recap of the lowlights in an especially forgettable year: They broke out of the gate with a 1-7 record, traded away Eric Dickerson, the best rusher in team history, and signed off their 6-9 season with a record-setting 48-0 loss to San Francisco.

Now comes the hard part.

For the Rams, who missed the playoffs for the first time in John Robinson's five years as head coach, 1988 stands in wait as the first step on what could be a long hard road back to respectability. They find themselves chasing both the up-and-coming New Orleans Saints and the always-tough San Francisco 49ers in the National Football Conference's Western Division.

What does the new season hold?

"Well, I think there'll be new faces on the team. It'll be a year of change," Robinson said.

"Whether that means a rebuilding year or not, I don't know. I think sometimes when you change you do very well. We're hopeful of that, of being back at a competitive level. But it will be a year of change."

A few clues to the Rams' new direction emerged during the NFL draft, clues that indicate a transformation from a team built around a power running back to one built around quarterback Jim Everett and speed.

Top choice Gaston Green of UCLA isn't a prototypical Rams tailback, but his time in the 40-yard dash at the Indianapolis scouting combine tests was 4.29 seconds—one-tenth of a second faster than Arizona State receiver Aaron Cox, another first-round pick. Second-round choice Willie (Flipper) Anderson, a receiver from UCLA, seems almost slow by comparison at 4.43 in the 40.

The Rams lost a starting receiver and kick returner five days before the draft when Ron Brown left football to resume his track career. But if the youngsters come through, he won't be missed.

"The passing cast is pretty well assembled right now," Robinson said, as draft day wound down.

"The one thing we got is speed. We'll race anybody in this draft."

Along with veteran tight end Pete Holohan (20 receptions for 239 yards last year), who came over in a draft-day trade with San Diego, all that new blood can only help a passing game that fell far short of expectations in 1987—next-to-last in passing yardage among all NFL teams.

Everett struggled early in his first full season as a starter, finishing as the league's 23rd-rated passer with a rating of 68.4—among qualifiers, only Scott Camp-



Tackle Jackie Slater is part of the Rams' talented offensive line.

bell, Chuck Long, Randy Wright and Mark Malone finished lower—but Robinson remains confident that Everett has a bright future.

More than anything, the Rams were a running team in '87—even without Dickerson. When Dickerson left, Charles White stepped out of the shadows and enjoyed a storybook season. White had begun the year by being arrested on drug charges in training camp. He finished by leading the league in rushing and earning a starting spot in the Pro Bowl.

White's 1,374 yards were only four fewer than his six-year career total going into the season. He offered dramatic evidence that the Rams' running success might be due as much to the system as any individual.

"I don't think anybody ever believed us," Robinson said, "but we always maintained that the running game wasn't just Eric Dickerson. It was a good running game."

"I'm not saying he wasn't great or anything, but I think we were psychologically prepared not to have him."

White's achievements reflected on the considerable skills of the offensive line, where the play of right tackle Jackie Slater, center Doug Smith and right guard Dennis Harrah earned them spots on the NFC Pro Bowl team. Left guard Tom Newberry probably deserved similar recognition.

Harrah retired after the season, following a distinguished 13-year career, but third-year man Duval Love performed

well in his place, starting four games and finishing several others.

The 1988 season will be a year of change on defense, too, where some major renovations are expected. Last year, the Rams fell from fifth to 21st in overall defensive rankings.

This year, in addition to the containing, zone-coverage defensive scheme that the Rams have played since Robinson's arrival, they will be incorporating a more aggressive, attacking package designed along the lines of the Chicago Bears' 46 defense.

The new-look defense will feature more man-to-man pass coverage, two defensive tackles instead of defensive ends and five linebackers on the field at the same time. Linebackers Mike Wilcher and Kevin Greene will rush the passer from the right and left sides on most plays and Mark Jerue will move in and out from inside linebacker to nose tackle.

"I just think it's part of where football is going right now, where the trend is," Robinson said.

"I think we have to jump back up to the front of that line. Whatever that trend line is, maybe it passed us by a little bit defensively."

The Rams' kicking chores will once again be handled by placekicker Mike Lansford, who hit 17 of 21 field goal attempts in '87, and punter Dale Hatcher, who averaged 41.3 yards a kick last season.

Continued

On the heels of his first losing season as a head coach, college or pro, Robinson is intent on improving the Rams' record. He thinks it can be done, even with a schedule that is statistically the toughest in the NFL.

"The key issue with us is how we play," he said.

"Regardless of all the other things, we didn't play very well. If we go back to playing the way I think we can, our expectations are pretty good. We can vault right back up there if we go back to playing defense the way we can and if our quarterback continues to improve." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Green Bay.....	12:00
Sept. 11—DETROIT.....	1:00
Sept. 18—at Los Angeles Raiders.....	1:00
Sept. 25—at New York Giants.....	4:00
Oct. 2—PHOENIX.....	1:00
Oct. 9—at Atlanta.....	1:00
Oct. 16—SAN FRANCISCO.....	1:00
Oct. 23—SEATTLE.....	1:00
Oct. 30—at New Orleans.....	12:00
Nov. 6—at Philadelphia.....	1:00
Nov. 13—NEW ORLEANS.....	1:00
Nov. 20—SAN DIEGO.....	1:00
Nov. 27—at Denver.....	2:00
Dec. 5—CHICAGO (Mon.).....	6:00
Dec. 11—ATLANTA.....	1:00
Dec. 18—at San Francisco.....	5:00

1987 RESULTS—(6-9)

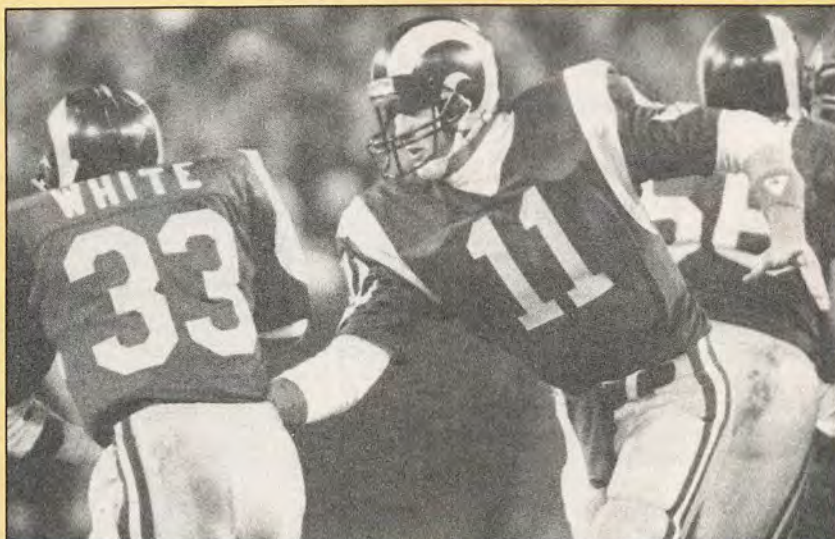
Rams	Opp.	Att.
16 Houston.....	20 (A)	33,186
16 Minnesota.....	21 (H)	63,567
Cincinnati ^a	(H)	
10 New Orleans.....	37 (A)	29,745
31 Pittsburgh.....	21 (H)	20,218
20 Atlanta.....	24 (A)	15,813
17 Cleveland.....	30 (A)	76,933
10 San Francisco.....	31 (H)	55,328
14 New Orleans.....	31 (H)	43,379
27 St. Louis.....	24 (A)	27,730
30 Washington.....	26 (A)	53,614
35 Tampa Bay.....	3 (H)	45,188
37 Detroit.....	16 (A)	33,143
33 Atlanta.....	0 (H)	43,310
21 Dallas.....	29 (H)	60,700
0 San Francisco.....	48 (A)	57,950

^aGame cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice to L.A. Raiders through Houston		
1. GREEN, Gaston from Buffalo	RB	UCLA
1. COX, Aaron from Indianapolis	WR	Arizona State
2. NEWMAN, Anthony from San Diego	DB	Oregon
2. ANDERSON, Willie from San Diego	WR	UCLA
2. STRICKLAND, Fred from Indianapolis	LB	Purdue
3. Choice to Washington		
3. PIEL, Mike from Washington	DT	Illinois
4. Choice to San Diego		
5. DELPINO, Robert from Washington	RB	Missouri
5. WASHINGTON, James from Washington	DB	UCLA
6. JONES, Keith from Washington	RB	Nebraska
6. KNAPTON, Jeff from Washington	DT	Wyoming
7. Choice to Denver		
8. FRANKLIN, Darryl from Washington	WR	Washington
9. FOSTER, Pat from Washington	DT	Montana
10. MULLIN, R.C. from Washington	T	S.W. Louisiana
11. Choice to San Diego		
12. Choice to Washington		
12. BEATHARD, Jeff from Washington	WR	Southern Ore.



Los Angeles running back Charles White and quarterback Jim Everett.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
84	†Baty, Greg	TE	6-5	241	3	8-28-64	Stanford	*9
42	Bell, Greg	RB	5-10	210	5	8- 1-62	Notre Dame	*4
92	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	2	9-21-65	San Diego State	8
50	Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	230	7	6-11-58	Syracuse	15
72	Cox, Robert	T	6-5	258	2	12-30-63	UCLA	10
21	†Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	200	12	1-30-55	Kansas	15
	Diaz-Infante, David	OL	6-2	272	2	3-31-64	San Jose State	*3
8	Dils, Steve	QB	6-1	191	10	12- 8-55	Stanford	15
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	222	12	5-27-54	San Jose State	11
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	175	6	7-21-61	Fresno State	12
11	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	3	1- 3-63	Purdue	11
35	Francis, Jon	RB	5-11	207	2	6-21-64	Boise State	9
19	Gaynor, Doug	QB	6-2	205	2	7- 5-63	Long Beach State	*0
25	Gray, Jerry	CB	6-0	185	4	12- 2-62	Texas	12
91	†Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	238	4	7-31-62	Auburn	9
44	Guman, Mike	RB	6-2	218	9	4-21-58	Penn State	12
5	†Hatcher, Dale	P	6-2	200	4	4- 5-63	Clemson	15
28	Hicks, Cliff	CB	5-10	188	2	8-18-64	Oregon	11
	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	232	8	7-25-59	Notre Dame	*2
83	†House, Kevin	WR	6-1	185	9	12-20-57	Southern Illinois	12
47	Irvin, LeRoy	CB	5-11	184	9	9-15-57	Kansas	10
59	†Jerue, Mark	LB	6-3	232	6	1-15-60	Washington	4
77	Jeter, Gary	DE	6-4	260	12	3-24-55	Southern California	12
86	†Johnson, Damone	TE	6-4	230	3	3- 2-62	Cal Poly-SLO	12
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	183	9	10- 8-56	Texas	7
52	Kelm, Larry	LB	6-4	226	2	11-29-64	Texas A&M	12
1	Lansford, Mike	K	6-0	183	7	7-20-58	Washington	15
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	263	4	6-24-63	UCLA	10
90	McDonald, Mike	LB	6-1	235	4	6-22-58	Southern California	10
24	McGee, Buford	RB	6-0	206	5	8-16-60	Mississippi	3
69	†Meisner, Greg	NT	6-3	253	8	4-23-59	Pittsburgh	15
12	Millen, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	2	11-22-63	Washington	1
98	†Miller, Shawn	NT	6-4	255	5	3-14-61	Utah State	6
45	Moore, Malcolm	TE	6-3	236	2	6-24-61	Southern California	3
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	279	3	12-20-62	Wisconsin-LaCrosse	12
22	Newsome, Vince	S	6-1	179	6	1-22-61	Washington	8
58	Owens, Mel	LB	6-2	224	8	12- 7-58	Michigan	12
75	Pankey, Irv	T	6-4	267	9	12-15-58	Penn State	12
93	†Reed, Doug	DE	6-3	262	5	7-16-60	San Diego State	12
63	Shields, Jon	G	6-5	285	2	4-30-64	Portland State	*1
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	271	13	5-27-54	Jackson State	12
61	Slaton, Tony	C	6-3	265	4	4-12-61	Southern California	11
56	Smith, Doug	C	6-3	260	11	11-25-56	Bowling Green	12
23	Stewart, Michael	S	5-11	195	2	7-21-65	Fresno State	12
65	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	262	2	3-14-64	Georgia Southern	8
49	†Sutton, Mickey	CB	5-8	165	3	8-28-60	Montana	12
70	Teafatiller, Guy	NT	6-2	185	2	5-10-64	Illinois	*3
68	Tuiasosopo, Navy	C	6-2	285	2	5-24-64	Utah State	3
32	†Tyrrell, Tim	RB	6-1	201	5	2-19-61	Northern Illinois	11
51	†Vann, Norwood	LB	6-1	237	5	2-18-62	East Carolina	11
73	Walker, Jeff	T	6-4	295	2	1-22-63	Memphis State	*0
41	Wattelet, Frank	S	6-0	190	8	10-25-58	Kansas	*7
33	White, Charles	RB	5-10	190	8	1-22-58	Southern California	15
54	†Wilcher, Mike	LB	6-3	235	6	3-20-60	North Carolina	12
99	†Wright, Alvin	NT	6-2	265	3	2- 5-61	Jacksonville State	15
88	Young, Michael	WR	6-1	185	4	2- 2-62	UCLA	12

*Baty played 5 games with Patriots, 4 with Rams in '87; Bell played 2 games with Bills, 2 with Rams in '87; Diaz-Infante played 3 games with Chargers in '87; Gaynor last active with Bengals in '86; Holohan played 12 games with Chargers in '87; Shields played 1 game with Cowboys in '87; Teafatiller played 3 games with Bears in '87; Walker missed '87 season due to injury; Wattelet played 2 games with Saints, 5 with Rams in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Wide receiver Ron Brown, 4-year veteran, 12 games in '87; guard Dennis Harrah, 13-year veteran, 8 games in '87.

Campbell must find cure for defensive woes before Falcons can get back on track

By GLENN SHEELEY
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Falcons took another severe beating in 1987, but the severest beating of all was given to Coach Marion Campbell's reputation. Heck, it's nothing new when the Falcons win only a few games in a season, but when Campbell, a well-respected defensive specialist, allows his defense to get pummeled week after week, that's bad.

Although Campbell has coached some No. 1-rated National Football League defenses in the past, his Falcons finished last in 1987. They led the league in the unenviable categories of most points allowed (436) and fewest points scored (205)—the first team to perform that double whammy since the 1971 Buffalo Bills. The Falcons had just 17 sacks all season (league average: 39.5) and were led in that category by defensive end Buddy Moor (4), a replacement player/plumber from Lexington, Ky.

Atlanta's goal in 1988 is clearer than the autumn skies over North Georgia: Develop a pass rush, fast. If the Falcons don't start pressuring people and occasionally stopping them, it won't really matter how many points their offense puts on the board.

The Falcons have placed much of their hopes on the draft, the one area of professional football that favors the weak teams. With new director of player personnel Ken Herock doing the selecting, Atlanta used the first pick in the draft to take Auburn's Aundray Bruce, a 6-foot-5, 245-pound linebacker with whom they already had agreed to contract terms.

With the first pick in the second round, the 28th choice overall, the Falcons grabbed another linebacker, this time Southern California's Marcus Cotton. Campbell's plan is to position the two rookies on the outside, have them put pressure on the quarterback and take some of it off the rest of the defense.

Specifically the defensive line, where ends Rick Bryan and Mike Gann and nose tackle Tony Casillas have combined for just 19 quarterback sacks in their two seasons as a unit.

With Bruce and Cotton on the outside, the logical move is to put Tim Green, a former No. 1 pick, on the inside. Green, however, is returning from a knee ligament injury in 1987 and will have to battle with team-leading tackler John Rade, Joe Costello and Michael Reid for a starting position. Buddy Curry, once the heart of the Atlanta defense, retired in May after an eight-year career.

The Falcons' secondary is also in need of upgrading. The draft produced no strong safety, which was needed, but it's possible that cornerback Scott Case could be moved back to safety after two years



Reliable running back Gerald Riggs returns to key a running game that fell far short of expectations last season.

at cornerback. Bret Clark was sorely missed last year after fracturing his leg in the season opener. Campbell was forced to use five players in Clark's vacated position last year.

Quarterback Chris Miller is the key to the Falcons' offensive plans. Miller, a No. 1 draft choice a year ago, missed more than half of his rookie season because of a contract dispute and played in only the Falcons' final three games. His nine interceptions and one touchdown pass, however, came during periods when the Falcons were trailing badly and the defenses knew Miller would pass.

"He's got a great arm, a good touch on the ball, he's mobile and he's tough," said Campbell. "He sure got a truckload of experience at the end of last year, with all that blitzing."

The coaches are so confident of Miller's abilities that they waived David Archer, their starter for most of 1985, '86 and the beginning of last year. Scott Campbell, who started nine games last season, will be Miller's backup.

The Falcons drafted three wide receivers last spring—George Thomas (Nevada-Las Vegas), Michael Haynes (Northern Arizona) and James Milling (Maryland)—and all three will be given a chance to win

a starting job. The starters at the end of last season were 5-9 Floyd Dixon and 5-7 Aubrey Matthews, who had 68 catches and eight touchdowns between them but had difficulty getting off the line of scrimmage because of their size.

It's also a good bet that third-round draft choice Alex Higdon (Ohio State) will be the tight end after the release of Arthur Cox.

The Falcons will try to evolve into more of a passing team and depend less on the run in 1988. They had the league's worst running attack (1,298 yards) and had the opportunity to trade running back Gerald Riggs, a 6-1, 230-pound horse who has rushed for 5,407 yards in four years as a starter. One reason they didn't trade Riggs is because Kenny Flowers, a No. 2 pick in '87, has not yet done enough to impress the coaches. Flowers' trouble with the two-back system last year eventually led the Falcons to stay almost solely with the one-back.

The offensive line will have to improve as well. It gave up 46 sacks, and excluding right guard Bill Fralic and perhaps left tackle Mike Kenn, nobody's job is safe. Brett Miller, who missed most of the year

Continued

with an arch injury, should be back to battle Leonard Mitchell for his old job at right tackle. Center Wayne Radloff could get a challenge from backup guard Jamie Dukes.

Two categories in which the Falcons led last year were two they'd just as soon forget: punting and kickoff returns. Rick Donnelly's 44-yard average led all punters and Sylvester Stamps' 27.5-yard average led all kickoff returners.

Campbell's coaching staff is the same as last year with one exception. Former Pitt head coach and Notre Dame assistant Foge Fazio takes over tight ends and special teams responsibilities from Al Groh, who left after one season to become offensive coordinator at South Carolina.

What about Campbell's future? Well, if you believe Falcons Executive Vice President Taylor Smith, he will survive in 1988 regardless of the team's record. Smith said Campbell "won't be evaluated until he has the players to be evaluated, and that's going to take a while." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Detroit.....	1:00
Sept. 11—NEW ORLEANS.....	1:00
Sept. 18—at San Francisco.....	1:00
Sept. 25—at Dallas.....	12:00
Oct. 2—SEATTLE.....	1:00
Oct. 9—LOS ANGELES RAMS.....	1:00
Oct. 16—at Denver.....	2:00
Oct. 23—NEW YORK GIANTS.....	1:00
Oct. 30—at Philadelphia.....	1:00
Nov. 6—GREEN BAY.....	1:00
Nov. 13—SAN DIEGO.....	1:00
Nov. 20—at Los Angeles Raiders.....	1:00
Nov. 27—TAMPA BAY.....	1:00
Dec. 4—SAN FRANCISCO.....	1:00
Dec. 11—at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
Dec. 18—at New Orleans.....	12:00

1987 RESULTS—(3-12)

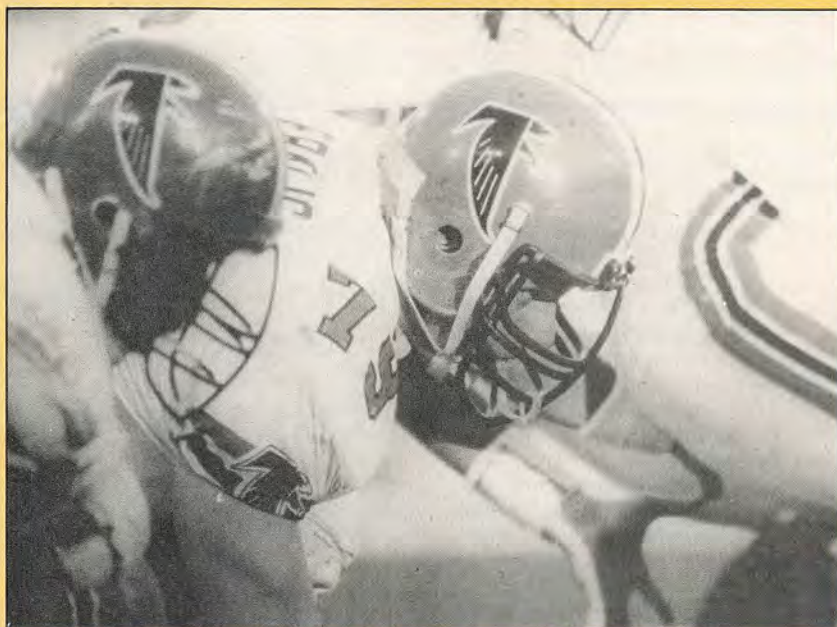
Falcons	Opp.	Att.
10 Tampa Bay.....	48 (A)	51,250
21 Washington.....	20 (H)	50,882
New Orleans ^a	(A)	
12 Pittsburgh.....	28 (H)	16,667
17 San Francisco.....	25 (H)	8,684
24 L.A. Rams.....	20 (H)	15,813
33 Houston.....	37 (A)	29,062
0 New Orleans.....	38 (H)	42,196
3 Cleveland.....	38 (A)	71,135
10 Cincinnati.....	16 (H)	25,758
21 Minnesota.....	24 (A)	53,866
21 St. Louis.....	34 (H)	15,909
21 Dallas.....	10 (A)	40,103
0 L.A. Rams.....	33 (A)	43,310
7 San Francisco.....	35 (A)	54,698
13 Detroit.....	30 (H)	13,906

^aGame cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. BRUCE, Aundray	LB	Auburn
2. COTTON, Marcus	LB	Southern Cal
3. HIGDON, Alex	TE	Ohio State
4. Choice to Tampa Bay through Philadelphia		
5. DIMRY, Charles	DB	Nev.-Las Vegas
6. THOMAS, George	WR	Nev.-Las Vegas
6. HOOVER, Houston	G	Jackson State
7. HAYNES, Michael	WR	Northern Ariz.
8. BROWN, Phillip	LB	Alabama
9. PRIMUS, James	RB	UCLA
10. CLAYTON, Stan	T	Penn State
11. MILLING, James	WR	Maryland
12. WILEY, Carter	DB	Virginia Tech



Atlanta Falcons offensive guard Bill Fralic.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
47	Badanjek, Rick	RB	5-8	217	2	4-25-62	Maryland	2
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6-0	157	7	2-10-60	San Jose State	7
93	Bohm, Ron	DE	6-3	253	2	9- 3-64	Illinois	*3
98	Brown, Greg	DE	6-5	265	8	1- 5-57	Kansas State	12
77	†Bryan, Rick	DE	6-4	265	5	3-20-62	Oklahoma	9
23	†Butler, Bobby	CB	5-11	182	8	5-28-59	Florida State	12
	Byrd, Sylvester	TE	6-2	240	2	5- 1-63	Kansas	3
10	Campbell, Scott	QB	6-0	195	5	4-15-62	Purdue	12
25	†Case, Scott	CB	6-0	178	5	5-17-62	Oklahoma	11
75	Casillas, Tony	NT	6-3	280	3	10-26-63	Oklahoma	9
28	Clark, Bret	S	6-3	198	2	2-24-61	Nebraska	1
56	Costello, Joe	LB	6-3	244	3	6- 1-60	Central Connecticut State	9
30	†Croudip, David	CB	5-8	183	5	1-25-59	San Diego State	12
	Davis, Greg	P	5-11	190	2	10-29-65	The Citadel	*3
86	Dixon, Floyd	WR	5-9	170	3	4- 9-64	Stephen F. Austin	12
3	†Donnelly, Rick	P	6-0	190	4	5-17-62	Wyoming	12
64	†Dukes, Jamie	G	6-1	278	3	6-14-64	Florida State	4
24	Emery, Larry	RB	5-9	195	2	7-13-64	Wisconsin	5
39	Everett, Major	RB	5-10	218	5	1- 4-60	Mississippi College	*11
48	Flowers, Kenny	CB	6-0	210	2	3-14-64	Clemson	8
79	Fralic, Bill	T/G	6-5	280	4	10-31-62	Pittsburgh	12
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6-5	275	4	10-19-63	Notre Dame	12
41	Gordon, Tim	S	6-0	188	2	5- 7-65	Tulsa	11
99	Green, Tim	LB	6-2	245	3	12-16-63	Syracuse	9
96	Hall, James	LB	6-1	252	2	1-27-63	Northwestern State, La.	3
21	Huff, Charles	CB	5-11	195	2	2-24-63	Presby2erian	3
68	Jackson, Lawrence	G	6-1	275	2	8-10-64	Presbyterian	3
84	†Jones, Joey	WR	5-8	165	2	10-29-62	Alabama	*0
	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	277	11	2- 9-56	Michigan	12
14	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-0	192	2	11- 6-64	North Carolina State	3
52	†Kraynak, Rich	LB	6-1	230	6	1-20-61	Pittsburgh	9
	Lavette, Robert	RB	5-11	190	3	9- 8-63	Georgia Tech	*5
18	†Luckhurst, Mick	K	6-2	183	8	3-31-58	California	12
83	†Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	3	9-15-62	Delta State	12
87	†Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	252	3	7-17-65	Auburn	12
62	Miller, Brett	T	6-7	300	6	10- 2-58	Iowa	2
12	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	195	2	8- 9-65	Oregon	3
73	†Mitchell, Leonard	T	6-7	295	8	10-12-58	Houston	12
34	†Moore, Robert	S	5-11	190	3	8-15-64	Northwestern State, La.	12
35	Moss, Gary	S	5-10	192	2	7-18-64	Georgia	3
67	Mraz, Mark	DE	6-4	255	2	2- 9-65	Utah State	11
	Padjen, Gary	LB	6-2	241	4	7- 2-58	Arizona State	*1
59	†Rade, John	LB	6-1	240	6	8-31-60	Boise State	11
55	Radloff, Wayne	C	6-5	277	4	5-17-61	Georgia	12
95	Reid, Michael	LB	6-2	226	2	6-25-64	Wisconsin	11
42	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6-1	232	7	11- 6-60	Arizona State	12
61	Scully, John	G	6-6	270	8	8- 2-58	Notre Dame	12
44	Settle, John	RB	5-9	207	2	6- 2-65	Appalachian	9
37	Shelley, Elbert	S	5-11	180	2	12-24-64	Arkansas State	4
	Small, Fred	LB	5-11	227	2	7-15-63	Washington	*0
29	†Stamps, Sylvester	RB	5-7	171	4	2-24-61	Jackson State	7
	Strauthers, Tom	DL	6-4	265	5	4- 6-61	Jackson State	*0
45	†Whisenhunt, Ken	TE	6-3	240	4	2-28-62	Georgia Tech	7
54	Williams, Joel	LB	6-1	227	10	12-13-56	Wisconsin-LaCrosse	8

*Bohm played 3 games with Cardinals in '87; Davis played 3 games with Falcons, inactive for 2 games with Dolphins in '87; Everett played 4 games with Browns, 7 with Falcons in '87; Jones missed '87 season due to injury; Lavette played 4 games with Cowboys, 1 with Eagles in '87; Padjen played 1 game with Colts in '87; Small last active with Steelers in '85; Strauthers last active with Eagles in '86.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Buddy Curry, 9-year linebacker, 4 games in '87.

Defense — or lack of it — will determine outcome in parity-laden AFC East

By LARRY FELSER
Buffalo News

There were times last season when it seemed the AFC East Division might end up in a five-way tie. In fact, as late as Thanksgiving Day, all five teams were tied with .500 records.

The race should be thinned out by at least 20 percent in 1988. The New York Jets disassembled themselves last winter. The other four teams should fight it out into December, with defense—or the lack of it—being the determining factor.

Only four of the 17 defensive players named to the AFC Pro Bowl squad last season were delegates from the AFC East. That should change soon.

There is a fresh influx of defensive talent in the division, starting with the Buffalo Bills' kid linebackers, Shane Conlan and Cornelius Bennett. The Miami Dolphins own two prize youngsters in defensive end John Bosa and linebacker John Offerdahl, and Indianapolis already has a bunch of talented, baby-faced defenders.

It isn't a question of fresh talent with the New England Patriots. Despite the questionable status of linebacker Don Blackmon (due to a neck injury) and the retirement of linebacker Steve Nelson, the Patriots still possess the experience and cohesion necessary to finish ahead of the pack.

The central figure for New England is not a defender, but 35-year-old injury-prone quarterback Steve Grogan, named the starter in the offseason by Head Coach Raymond Berry. The nomination is as much a vote of no confidence in Tony Eason, who played in just three games last season because of injuries, as it is a reward for Grogan.

Grogan's job could be made easier if the Patriots can reestablish their ball-control ground game. The ingredients are there, thanks to a realigned offensive line and a set of running backs refreshed by the coming of first-round draft pick John Stephens of Northwestern (La.) State and Bob Perryman, a hard-blocking fullback who came on strong at the end of his rookie season.

The Buffalo Bills improved in 1987, largely because of an attacking defense. That's the philosophy of defensive coordinator Walt Corey, and it may be even more pronounced this year.

If Bennett's last game of '87 is a sign of things to come, watch out. He totaled 17 tackles and four sacks, and Corey will send him after the passer from the left side of the defense. Pro Bowl defensive end Bruce Smith will be charging from the right. Conlan's effectiveness increased dramatically after being switched from outside linebacker to the inside when the Bills acquired Bennett.

For all of quarterback Jim Kelly's pass-

TSN's Predictions

FINISH	COMMENT
1. Buffalo	A division up for grabs and Bills ready provided quarterback Jim Kelly's arm is sound and running game consistent.
2. Miami	Defense will improve if more emphasis is placed on run. But that's tough with Dan Marino running the show.
3. Indianapolis	A new version of the Over The Hill Gang, Colts might be sacrificing too much youth to add experience.
4. New England	Questions at quarterback and on offensive line mean a season of transition. Defense must replace lost leadership.
5. N.Y. Jets	Too many questions on defense and offensive line. Jets still wonder if they'll get full season from Freeman McNeil.

ing ability, there was no explosion from the Buffalo offense. Head Coach Marv Levy tried to fix that via the draft, gambling on Thurman Thomas, the Oklahoma State running back with the questionable knee, and Bernard Ford, a small-college smurf receiver from Central Florida.

Ron Meyer, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, is acting like a man with a mission. He won the AFC East in a strange, strike-pocked 1987 season and now appears driven to reach the Super Bowl as if his career depended on it.

Signing nose tackle-Joe Klecko was a reasonable gamble, even at the ex-New York Jet's big salary, but then Meyer signed a carload of veteran free agents that other teams had cashiered, like Green Bay Packers defensive end Ezra Johnson and Cleveland safety Ray Ellis.

The free-agent signings might plug a few holes, but the Colts still are going to go only as far as running back Eric Dickerson can carry them.

Obviously, a crisis remains at quarterback. Gary Hogeboom has been plagued by injuries as a Colt, and although Meyer says, "We couldn't have made it without Jack Trudeau last year," he used his top pick in the 1988 lottery to draft a quarterback, Chris Chandler of Washington, and traded for another, Mark Herrmann.

The offensive problems might be eased by a vastly improved defense headed by defensive ends Jon Hand and Donnell Thompson and linebacker Duane Bickett, who has been called "a big Jack Ham."

In a way, the Miami Dolphins have been spoiled by Offerdahl. Because he made an immediate impact as a rookie two years ago, the Dolphins' expectations have been too high for their top defensive draftees ever since. Bosa's rookie year was routine, but he should develop into more of a menace as he masters pro techniques.

The outlook may not be nearly as bright for this year's first-round pick, Eric Kumerow, the longest longshot in the draft. He came to Ohio State as a quarterback, evolved from a safety to a linebacker to the Dolphins' plans to turn him

into part end, part linebacker a la Ted Hendricks.

Miami has had an overdose of bad luck in the last 12 months. Linebacker Hugh Green's future is in peril because of a knee injury. Also on the returning-from-serious-injury list is Pro Bowl center Dwight Stephenson, around whom much of the offense revolves.

The Dolphins still score more points than any team in the division. Even without Stephenson, quarterback Dan Marino could locate wide receivers Mark Duper and Mark Clayton in pitch darkness.

The Jets' postseason was bizarre, even by New York standards. Bud Carson, the creative defensive coordinator, feuded with Head Coach Joe Walton, and it seemed likely Carson would be someplace else in 1988. Carson remains, although great gobs of his defense disappeared.

Klecko, possibly the best defensive player in the history of the franchise, was declared a medical reject. Defensive back Russell Carter, once the great hope in the secondary, was traded to Indianapolis, flunked his physical, then traded again to the Raiders. Lineman Barry Bennett was released, and ends Mark Gastineau and Marty Lyons, once major stars, stayed but bore the appearance of empty shells. Ditto for linebacker Lance Mehl.

Walton is more of a survivor than Carson. He may owe his job to the determination of Owner Leon Hess that the media not dictate the Jets' course.

Walton may not have much choice in what course the offense takes. Sticking to the basics is likely, since the offensive line is currently under reconstruction. Top draftee Dave Cadigan of Southern California moves into the left tackle spot, freeing Jim Sweeney to move to his natural position, center. Mike Haight, the high-priced first-round pick in 1986 who has been a flop up until now, gets another chance at left guard.

The Jets' chief offensive weapons are quarterback Ken O'Brien and wide receiver Al Toon. Johnny Hector could supplant running back Freeman McNeil, who is on the edge of Operation Phase-Out. ■

AFC EAST

Up-and-coming Bills appear to be ready to make a run at AFC East title

By MILT NORTHROP
Buffalo News

When Marv Levy took control of the Buffalo Bills in the middle of the 1986 season, his goal was simple:

"We want to get as good as we can, as fast as we can," he said.

Well, in 1987 the Bills nearly captured the American Football Conference's Eastern Division title before collapsing in the last two weeks to finish 7-8. The ending was a letdown, but the season (6-6 in non-strike games) was a marked improvement over Buffalo's combined 8-40 mark over the previous three seasons.

And the Bills should only get better. They started four rookies—linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan, cornerback Nate Odomes and fullback Jamie Mueller—for a good portion of the '87 season. Three other rookies (defensive end Leon Seals, nose tackle Bruce Mesner and defensive back Roland Mitchell) saw spot action.

The young Bills are definitely on the rise. In fact, some observers, including Miami Coach Don Shula, believe that if there is any team that should be favored in the AFC East, it might be Buffalo.

Shula expressed that opinion shortly after his team suffered a 27-0 pounding at the hands of the Bills in late November. The way Bruce Smith, Bennett, Conlan and Co. shut down Dan Marino and the Dolphins may have been a glimpse into the future of the AFC East.

Of course, the Bills have come close to Super Bowl status in the past only to come up short. This time, however, Owner Ralph Wilson Jr. is acting as if he means business and is serious about going after the Super Bowl. His willingness to go along with the trade for Bennett in mid-season last year and the crisp, decisive manner in which the Bills wrapped up contract negotiations with the linebacker may be signs that, indeed, a new attitude may be taking hold in the Buffalo front office.

Bennett was everything the Bills' coaching staff thought he'd be when the trade was made. In eight games he had 8.5 sacks and enabled the coaches to move Conlan, a former Penn State All-America, from left outside linebacker to inside. Conlan's strengths are range, instincts, hustle and toughness, and all were put to better use on the inside.

Bennett's arrival seemed to spark the entire Buffalo defense. In the season's first four games (not including strike games), the unit recorded eight quarterback sacks. It recorded 22 in the eight games Bennett played. In the Bills' previous 20 games, stretching back to the 1986 season, the defense had picked off 12 passes. The unit intercepted 12 in the



Buffalo wide receiver Chris Burkett finished among the AFC leaders with 56 receptions last year.

eight games after Bennett's arrival.

Defensive end Smith, a steady but unspectacular player in his first two seasons with the Bills, exploded with the arrival of Bennett and Conlan. Smith led the team with 12 sacks despite nearly constant double-teaming and was voted to a starting spot in the Pro Bowl.

Although the Bills had just 34 sacks as a team (the league average was 39.5), the unit's total defense ranking within the league improved from 24th in 1986 to 12th in '87.

And with 31-year-old nose tackle Fred Smerlas the oldest defensive starter, the Bills' defense should only get better in years to come.

"We've gone from being a very weak defensive team to at least a respectable one," Levy said in somewhat of an understatement.

The Bills, however, have their share of problems. Some positions are unsettled and an overall lack of depth means that a serious injury to a key player could be devastating.

"We don't want to sit still at any position if we can improve it," Levy says.

The Bills did not hesitate to attack two alleged weaknesses in last spring's draft.

Levy had said after last season that he needed a durable running back and a speedy wide receiver. With that in mind, Buffalo used its first draft pick, the 40th selection overall, to select Oklahoma State running back Thurman Thomas. Thomas has first-round ability but a torn

knee ligament suffered before his junior year in college lowered his draft status. He played his last two seasons with a knee brace and eventually may have to have the ligament surgically repaired.

In the third round, the Bills took wide receiver Bernard Ford of Central Florida, a 4.3 speedster. Ford played at the Division II level in college and must prove he can make the big jump to the NFL.

The Bills are hoping that Thomas can come in and take over the halfback duties, where a committee of many handled the chores last season. Ronnie Harmon started 10 games there after Greg Bell was sent packing in the Bennett trade, and veteran Robb Riddick suffered a broken collarbone. Harmon led the Bills with 485 yards rushing and topped all running backs in the AFC with 56 pass receptions.

But Harmon is not the hard-nosed runner Levy would like. And although Harmon, Riddick, Ricky Porter and the departed Bell produced a decent composite of 943 yards rushing and 84 pass receptions, the job is there for Thomas to take.

Fourth-year wide receivers Andre Reed (57 catches) and Chris Burkett (56) finished among the AFC leaders in receptions, but Buffalo's longest pass play was only 47 yards. The longest touchdown completion was 27. The Bills were the only NFL team that did not have a pass, run or return play longer than 50 yards.

Obviously, there is a need for the home-run ball, the quick strike. Ford can help provide that. At 5-foot-9, 170 pounds, he is a lot like the smurf receivers quarterback Jim Kelly used to throw to when he played in the United States Football League.

"He's one of those guys if you're across the field from him, you hold your breath every play," Levy said.

Kelly, as the trigger man in an offense that averaged just 6.3 yards per pass attempt, clearly wants a little more leeway to throw deep this year.

"We've got to be able to open it up more," Kelly said. "In a game, you have to take chances. You have to be able to crank back on first down at your own 20-yard line and throw an 80-yarder. I mean, that's what it's all about."

"We did that in the USFL a bunch of times. Probably more times than not I had touchdowns over 20 yards than I did inside the 20."

Kelly is entering his third season with the Bills and many believe this should be his best yet. The former University of Miami star did not have a poor game in his two seasons with Buffalo until the next-to-last game last year. In a pivotal matchup against the Patriots in windy Rich Stadium, he came up flat and the Bills lost, 13-7, knocking them out of playoff contention.

During the off-season, Kelly was exam-

ined by specialists after complaining of a sore arm. It was determined at that time that there were no bone chips in the elbow joint that would require surgery. The diagnosis was "pitcher's elbow," and a routine of rehabilitative exercises was prescribed.

Punter John Kidd (39.0 average) may never put up big numbers kicking in windy Rich Stadium, but he just might have been the AFC's most effective punter last season. Placekicker Scott Norwood has the highest field-goal percentage (67.8) of any kicker in Bills history, but may have trouble keeping his job because his range on field goals and kickoffs is limited.

Kirk Roach, a fifth-round draft choice from Western Carolina, hit seven of 11 from 50 yards or more during his senior season in college, and will give Norwood all he can handle in training camp. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—MINNESOTA	1:00
Sept. 11—MIAMI	1:00
Sept. 18—at New England	1:00
Sept. 25—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Oct. 2—at Chicago	12:00
Oct. 9—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Oct. 17—at New York Jets (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 23—NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Oct. 30—GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 6—at Seattle	1:00
Nov. 14—at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 20—NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Nov. 27—at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 4—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 11—LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	1:00
Dec. 18—at Indianapolis	1:00

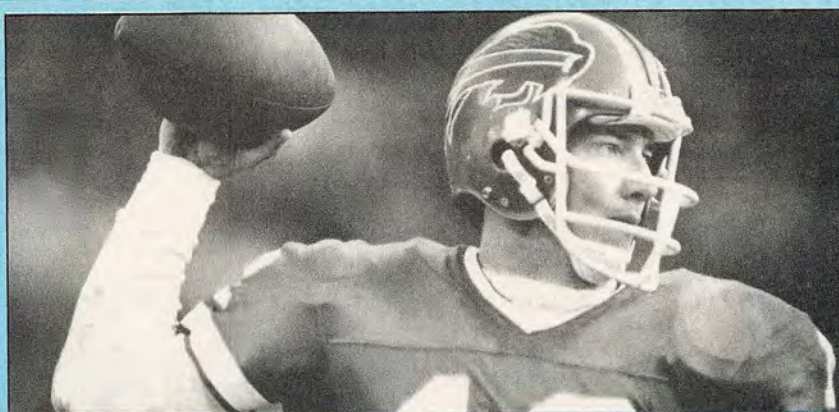
1987 RESULTS—(7-8)

Bills	Opp.	Att.
28 New York Jets	31 (H)	76,718
34 Houston	30 (H)	56,534
Dallas*	(A)	
6 Indianapolis	47 (H)	9,860
7 New England	14 (A)	11,878
6 New York Giants (OT)	3 (H)	15,737
34 Miami (OT)	31 (A)	61,295
7 Washington	27 (H)	71,640
21 Denver	14 (H)	63,698
21 Cleveland	27 (A)	78,409
17 New York Jets	14 (A)	58,407
27 Miami	0 (H)	68,055
21 L.A. Raiders	34 (A)	43,143
27 Indianapolis	3 (A)	60,253
7 New England	13 (H)	74,945
7 Philadelphia	17 (A)	57,547

*Game cancelled due to strike.
Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice to L.A. Rams		
2. THOMAS, Thurman	RB	Oklahoma State
3. FORD, Bernard	WR	Central Florida
4. Choice to San Diego		
5. GADSON, Ezekial	DB	Pittsburgh
5. ROACH, Kirk	K	Western Caro.
from San Francisco		
6. MURRAY, Dan	LB	E. Str'dsb, Pa.
7. BORCKY, Tim	T	Memphis State
7. WRIGHT, Bo	RB	Alabama
from San Diego		
8. HAGY, John	DB	Texas
8. WRIGHT, Jeff	NT	Central Missouri
from Indianapolis		
9. BAILEY, Carlton	NT	North Carolina
10. MAYHEW, Martin	DB	Florida State
11. CURENDALL, Pete	NT	Penn State
12. DRISCOLL, John	T	New Hampshire
from Kansas City		
12. ERLANDSON, Tom	LB	Washington



Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
	Beecher, Willie	K	5-10	170	2	4-14-63	Utah State	*3
55	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	235	2	8-25-66	Alabama	8
50	Bentley, Ray	LB	6-2	245	3	11-25-60	Central Michigan	9
81	Broughton, Walter	WR	5-10	180	3	10-20-62	Jacksonville State	9
85	Burkett, Chris	WR	6-4	210	4	8-21-62	Jackson State	12
29	Burroughs, Derrick	CB	6-1	180	4	5-18-62	Memphis State	12
61	Burton, Leonard	T	6-3	275	3	6-18-64	South Carolina	12
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6-0	178	8	10-12-57	Clemson	*0
35	Byrum, Carl	RB	6-0	235	3	6-29-63	Mississippi Valley State	13
69	Christy, Greg	G	6-4	285	2	4-29-62	Pittsburgh	*0
58	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	230	2	4-3-64	Penn State	12
21	Davis, Wayne	CB	5-11	175	4	7-17-63	Indiana State	10
70	†Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	280	12	2-23-54	Iowa	12
45	Drane, Dwight	S	6-2	205	3	5-6-62	Oklahoma	11
	†Fox, Chas	WR/KR	5-11	190	2	10-3-63	Furman	*0
59	Frerotte, Mitch	G	6-3	280	2	3-30-65	Penn State	12
53	Furjanic, Tony	LB	6-1	228	3	2-26-64	Notre Dame	8
99	Garner, Hal	LB	6-4	235	3	1-18-62	Utah State	*0
8	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	2	12-4-62	Maryland	*0
75	Hamby, Mike	DE	6-4	270	2	11-2-62	Utah State	*0
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	192	3	5-7-64	Iowa	12
71	Hellestrae, Dale	T	6-5	275	3	7-11-62	Southern Methodist	*0
	Hendel, Andy	LB	6-1	230	2	3-4-61	North Carolina State	*0
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-4	275	3	1-13-61	Mississippi State	12
	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	2	2-2-65	Mississippi State	*5
48	Johnson, Lawrence	S	5-11	202	8	9-11-57	Wisconsin	6
86	Johnson, Trumaine	WR	6-1	196	4	1-16-60	Grambling State	12
52	†Kaiser, John	LB	6-3	227	5	6-6-62	Arizona	12
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	3	2-14-60	Miami (Fla.)	12
38	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	177	3	7-23-63	William & Mary	12
4	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	5	8-22-61	Northwestern	12
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	260	6	11-2-60	Illinois	12
54	Marve, Eugene	LB	6-2	240	7	8-14-60	Saginaw Valley State	5
95	McNanie, Sean	DE	6-5	270	5	9-9-61	San Diego State	12
74	Mesner, Bruce	NT	6-5	280	2	3-21-64	Maryland	11
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	243	7	5-24-60	Wabash	12
25	Mitchell, Roland	CB/KR	5-11	180	2	3-15-64	Texas Tech	11
39	Mueller, Jamie	RB	6-1	225	2	10-4-64	Benedictine College	12
11	Norwood, Scott	K	6-0	207	4	7-17-60	James Madison	12
37	Odomes, Nate	CB/KR	5-9	188	2	8-25-65	Wisconsin	12
	Partridge, Rick	P	6-1	175	4	8-26-57	Utah	3
57	Pike, Mark	LB	6-4	257	2	12-27-63	Georgia Tech	3
27	Pitts, Ron	CB/S	5-10	175	3	10-14-62	UCLA	12
30	Porter, Kerry	RB	6-1	210	2	9-23-64	Washington State	6
26	†Porter, Ricky	RB	5-10	210	4	1-14-60	Slippery Rock State	9
79	†Prater, Dean	DE	6-4	260	7	9-28-58	Oklahoma State	10
97	Radecic, Scott	LB	6-3	242	5	6-14-62	Penn State	12
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-0	190	4	1-29-64	Kutztown State	12
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-3	208	4	12-4-61	Maryland	*0
40	Riddick, Robb	RB	6-0	195	7	4-26-57	Millersville State	6
51	†Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	265	9	5-21-58	North Carolina State	12
87	†Rolle, Butch	TE	6-3	242	3	8-19-64	Michigan State	12
42	Roquemore, Durwood	S	6-1	190	4	1-19-60	Texas A&I	5
	†Sampson, Clint	WR	5-11	183	5	1-4-61	San Diego State	*0
96	Seals, Leon	DE	6-4	265	2	1-30-64	Jackson State	13
	Simmons, Tony	DE	6-4	270	3	12-18-62	Tennessee	*3
76	†Smerlas, Fred	NT	6-3	280	10	4-8-57	Boston College	12
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	285	4	6-18-63	Virginia Tech	12
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	227	6	7-10-60	West Virginia	12
89	†Tasker, Steve	WR/KR	5-9	185	4	4-10-62	Northwestern	12
62	Traynowicz, Mark	G	6-5	280	4	11-20-62	Nebraska	11
	Vital, Lionel	RB	5-9	195	2	7-15-63	Nicholls State	*3
65	Vogler, Tim	G	6-3	285	10	10-2-56	Ohio State	12
	Winslow, George	P	6-4	205	2	7-28-63	Villanova	*5
73	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	276	3	5-18-64	Vanderbilt	12

*Beecher played 3 games with Dolphins in '87; Butler, Christy, Fox, Garner, Gelbaugh, Hamby, Hellestrae and Sampson missed '87 season due to injury; Fox last active with Chiefs in '86; Hendel last active with Dolphins in '86; Jackson played 5 games with Rams, inactive for 5 games with Bills in '87; Reich active for 12 games with Bills in '87, but did not play; Simmons played 3 games with Chargers in '87; Vital played 3 games with Redskins, inactive for 3 games with Bills in '87; Winslow played 5 games with Browns in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

'Mediocre' Dolphins are looking for the road back to the top

By GARY SHELTON
Miami Herald

Nothing is more boring than mediocrity. The Miami Dolphins are living proof.

In 1987, the Dolphins won eight games... again. They ranked 26th in the league in defense... again. They rarely rushed the passer, and spent their No. 1 draft pick on a pass rusher... again. They relied on All-Everything quarterback Dan Marino to roll up more points than a weak defense was giving up... again.

Somebody hit the needle. This record is stuck. The Dolphins still have a great offense and still need an improved defense. It's 1988, and nothing has changed but the calendar.

"On paper, it doesn't look like our defense improved a lot last year," said Dolphins Coach Don Shula, the NFL's winningest active head man. "But we did give up fewer big plays, and there are some things we feel good about. But overall, I don't think we're close to where you have to be to be a playoff team."

Shula hopes the draft moved his team closer. The Dolphins surprised everyone by taking Ohio State defensive end-linebacker Eric Kumerow in the first round, but Shula "has a conviction" about him. The Dolphins see him as a combination linebacker-end who could step in and turn up the heat on opposing passers.

Kumerow will compete with Mark Brown at right outside linebacker. With second-year player Rick Graf on the left side, the Dolphins will have two players who can line up at linebacker or end, giving the defense—one of the league's youngest—a more flexible look.

"We would have the possibility of going to a multiple defense without substituting," Shula said. "We could go from a three-man line to a four-man line without tipping our hand."

That is designed to help an anemic pass rush, which was 27th in the league (21 sacks) a year ago. Miami's leading sacker, end T.J. Turner, had only four in 12 games. And a better pass rush, the Dolphins hope, could make a suspect secondary better.

There will be new faces in the defensive backfield. Second-round draft pick Jarvis Williams, a punishing tackler from Florida, is expected to step in at free safety. And No. 5 pick Rodney Thomas (Brigham Young) brings with him a reputation as a good man-to-man cover guy at cornerback.

Then, there are the old faces. Linebacker Hugh Green is entering his eighth NFL campaign and hasn't been an effective player for two years (14 tackles in nine games a year ago). He made a good impression at mini-camp, however, and could contribute in a big way.



Miami quarterback Dan Marino remains the Dolphins' key to success.

Team-leading tackler Jackie Shipp (79) and Pro Bowler John Offerdahl again will be the inside linebackers, but the coaches would like more production from hold-over cornerbacks William Judson and Paul Lankford, who'll have rookie Thomas breathing down their necks.

The Dolphins also hope for more production from second-year players Graf and John Bosa, their top two draft selections in '87 who became starters by the end of their rookie seasons. Bosa had 50 tackles, three sacks and two fumble recoveries while Graf had 29 tackles, one sack and one recovery.

With the Dolphins' high-powered offense, their defense doesn't have to rank in the top two or three in the league for

the team to win. But it must do better than 26th, especially in an AFC East Division where Buffalo and Indianapolis have moved into contention.

The Dolphins were only 2-6 against the AFC East in 1987, a division in which they have either won or shared first place in 13 of the last 18 years.

The only question mark on the NFL's fourth-ranked offense is the health of Pro Bowl center Dwight Stephenson. He suffered nerve damage to his knee in a game against the Jets last December and is expected to miss at least half the '88 season.

Jeff Dellenbach will fill in for Stephenson, and the coaches think he can do the job. But Dellenbach was also the team's third tackle, and with starters Jon Giesler (knee) and Ronnie Lee (groin) coming off surgery, Miami's offensive line may be in danger of losing its status as the NFL's best at protecting the quarterback.

The Dolphins have led the league in fewest sacks allowed (13 in 1987) for the last six years, an NFL record.

Because of their injury situation, the Dolphins drafted Oklahoma's Greg Johnson (fourth round), Tennessee's Harry Galbreath (eighth) and Texas A&M's Louis Cheek (eighth) to try to shore up a line that ended with only five healthy players last year.

Miami's best lineman at the end of last season was guard Roy Foster, who narrowly missed a third straight visit to the Pro Bowl.

The line does have a better running game behind it because of the emergence of Troy Stradford, a 5-foot-9 scatback who led the Dolphins in rushing (619 yards) and receiving (48 catches) as a rookie. Stradford's 1,076 combined rushing and receiving yards were the most ever for a Miami rookie.

Stradford is backed up by Lorenzo Hampton, but the Dolphins are looking for fullback help. They drafted three, although former University of Miami star Melvin Bratton won't be able to play for a year because of a knee injury. Bratton was projected by NFL scouts as a first-round pick before the injury dropped him all the way to the sixth round.

That leaves a job for another sixth-round pick, George Cooper (Ohio State), if he proves he can pick up short yardage, or veteran Ron Davenport, who had a good finish catching the ball a year ago.

The Dolphins' two primary wide receivers, Mark Clayton and Mark Duper, combined for just 79 receptions and 15 touchdowns in what, for them, was a subpar season. Part of that was because they were constantly double-teamed, with opponents covering a slow-footed Miami tight end (either Bruce Hardy or Dan Johnson) with a linebacker.

That was why the Dolphins couldn't re-

Continued

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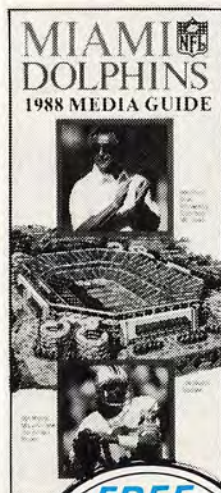
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sist drafting Maryland tight end Ferrell Edmunds in the third round. Edmunds is 6-6, 245 and runs a 4.6 40-yard dash.

"There were some games where we had to make big plays offensively and we didn't do it," Shula said.

Shula, who's entering his 26th NFL season as a head coach and 19th with the Dolphins, also wouldn't mind seeing some improvement in his special teams. Miami finished 10th in the AFC in punt return average and 12th in kickoff returns. Punter Reggie Roby averaged 42.8 yards a kick but punted in just eight games because of a leg injury. Fuad Reveiz was the only regular placekicker in the AFC without the minimum 15 field-goal attempts necessary to qualify among the league leaders. Reveiz converted nine of 11 field goals last year.

Overall, however, the problem in Miami remains defense. And unless it improves, the Dolphins will flirt with the .500 level.

Again. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Chicago.....	12:00
Sept. 11—at Buffalo.....	1:00
Sept. 18—GREEN BAY.....	1:00
Sept. 25—at Indianapolis.....	12:00
Oct. 2—MINNESOTA.....	4:00
Oct. 9—at Los Angeles Raiders.....	1:00
Oct. 16—SAN DIEGO.....	1:00
Oct. 23—NEW YORK JETS.....	4:00
Oct. 30—at Tampa Bay.....	1:00
Nov. 6—at New England.....	1:00
Nov. 14—BUFFALO (Mon.).....	9:00
Nov. 20—NEW ENGLAND.....	8:00
Nov. 27—at New York Jets.....	1:00
Dec. 4—INDIANAPOLIS.....	1:00
Dec. 12—CLEVELAND (Mon.).....	9:00
Dec. 18—at Pittsburgh.....	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(8-7)

Dolphins	Opp.	Att.
21 New England.....	28 (A)	54,642
23 Indianapolis.....	10 (A)	57,524
New York Giants ^a	(H)	
20 Seattle.....	24 (A)	19,448
42 Kansas City.....	0 (H)	25,867
31 New York Jets (OT).....	37 (A)	18,249
31 Buffalo (OT).....	34 (H)	61,295
35 Pittsburgh.....	24 (H)	52,578
20 Cincinnati.....	14 (A)	53,847
21 Indianapolis.....	40 (H)	65,433
20 Dallas.....	14 (A)	56,519
0 Buffalo.....	27 (A)	68,055
37 New York Jets.....	28 (H)	58,879
28 Philadelphia.....	10 (A)	63,841
23 Washington.....	21 (H)	65,715
10 New England.....	24 (H)	61,192

^aGame cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. KUMEROW, Eric	DE	Ohio State
2. WILLIAMS, Jarvis	DB	Florida
3. EDMUNDS, Ferrell	TE	Maryland
4. JOHNSON, Greg	T	Oklahoma
5. THOMAS, Rodney	DB	Brigham Young
6. BRATTON, Melvin	RB	Miami (Fla.)
6. COOPER, George	RB	Ohio State
from Minnesota		
7. BELL, Kerwin	QB	Florida
8. GALBREATH, Harry	G	Tennessee
8. CHEEK, Louis	T	Texas A&M
from Denver		
9. CROSS, Jeff	DE	Missouri
10. JACKSON, Artis	NT	Texas Tech
11. KELLEHER, Tom	RB	Holy Cross
12. KINCHEN, Brian	TE	Louisiana State



Miami Dolphins linebacker John Offerdahl (56).

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
86	Banks, Fred	WR	5-10	180	3	5-26-62	Liberty	3
	Bennett, Charles	DE	6-5	255	2	2- 9-63	Southwestern Louisiana	3
34	Bennett, Woody	RB	6-2	244	10	3-24-56	Miami (Fla.)	12
75	†Bettters, Doug	DE	6-7	265	11	6-11-56	Nevada-Reno	12
47	†Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	190	10	2-23-57	Texas	10
97	Bosa, John	DE	6-4	263	2	1-10-64	Boston College	12
43	Brown, Bud	S	6-0	194	5	4-19-61	Southern Mississippi	9
51	Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	235	6	7-18-61	Purdue	12
59	†Bruzdzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	223	12	1- 1-55	Ohio State	12
	Caterbone, Mike	WR/KR	5-11	180	2	2-17-62	Franklin and Marshall	3
	Cesario, Sal	T/G	6-4	255	2	7- 4-63	Cal Poly-SLO	*3
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	175	6	4- 8-61	Louisville	12
98	Cline, Jackie	NT	6-5	276	2	3-13-60	Alabama	*8
67	Conlin, Chris	G/C	6-4	290	2	6- 7-65	Penn State	3
30	†Davenport, Ron	RB	6-2	230	4	12-22-62	Louisville	10
65	†Dellenbach, Jeff	T/C	6-6	280	4	2-14-63	Wisconsin	11
74	Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	291	2	4-15-65	Illinois	5
85	†Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	187	7	1-25-59	Northwestern (La.) State	11
	Flaherty, Tom	LB	6-3	227	2	9-24-64	Northwestern	*3
61	Foster, Roy	G	6-4	275	7	5-24-60	Southern California	12
53	†Frye, David	LB	6-2	227	6	6-21-61	Purdue	12
79	†Giesler, Jon	T	6-5	265	10	12-23-56	Michigan	10
66	Gilmore, Jim	G	6-5	275	3	12-19-62	Ohio State	3
58	Graf, Rick	LB	6-5	239	2	8-29-63	Wisconsin	12
55	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	225	8	7-27-59	Pittsburgh	9
71	Gruber, Bob	T	6-5	280	2	6- 7-58	Pittsburgh	*1
	Halloran, Shawn	QB	6-4	215	2	4-23-64	Boston College	*3
27	Hampton, Lorenzo	RB	6-0	203	4	3-12-62	Florida	12
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-5	234	11	6- 1-56	Arizona State	12
29	Hobley, Liffort	S	6-0	199	3	5-12-62	Louisiana State	14
	Holloway, Steve	TE	6-3	235	2	8-23-64	Tennessee State	*6
	Hunley, Lamonte	LB	6-1	240	3	1-31-63	Arizona	*0
17	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-1	195	14	3-23-51	Youngstown State	*0
11	Jensen, Jim	WR/RB	6-4	215	8	11-14-58	Boston University	12
87	†Johnson, Dan	TE	6-3	245	6	5-17-60	Iowa State	7
	Jordan, Kenneth	LB	6-2	235	2	4-29-64	Tuskegee	*3
49	Judson, William	CB	6-2	190	7	3-26-59	South Carolina State	12
	Kehoe, Scott	T	6-4	282	2	9-20-64	Illinois	3
54	Kolic, Larry	LB	6-1	238	2	8-31-63	Ohio State	7
69	Lambrech, Mike	NT	6-1	271	2	5- 2-63	St. Cloud State	5
44	†Lankford, Paul	CB	6-2	184	7	6-15-58	Penn State	12
72	Lee, Ronnie	T	6-4	265	10	12-24-56	Baylor	9
99	†Little, George	DE/NT	6-4	270	4	6-27-63	Iowa	9
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	214	6	9-15-61	Pittsburgh	12
78	Marrone, Doug	G/C	6-5	269	2	7-25-64	Syracuse	4
28	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	192	8	5- 6-58	Alabama	12
	Middleton, Frank	RB	5-11	205	4	10-28-60	Florida A&M	*3
52	†Nicolas, Scott	LB	6-3	226	7	8- 7-60	Miami (Fla.)	12
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-2	232	3	8-17-64	Western Michigan	9
82	Pruitt, James	WR	6-2	199	3	1-29-64	Fullerton State	12
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	217	4	2-24-63	Tennessee	11
4	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	242	6	7-30-61	Iowa	10
81	Schwedes, Scott	WR/KR	6-0	174	2	6-30-65	Syracuse	12
	Scott, Chris	DE	6-4	250	4	12-11-61	Purdue	*3
50	†Shipp, Jackie	LB	6-2	236	5	3-19-62	Oklahoma	12
	Simpson, Travis	C/G	6-2	265	2	11-19-63	Oklahoma	*3
25	Smith, Mike	CB	6-0	175	4	10-24-62	Texas-El Paso	8
70	†Sochia, Brian	NT	6-3	274	6	7-21-61	N.W. Oklahoma State	12
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	258	9	11-20-57	Alabama	9
23	Stradford, Troy	RB	5-9	191	2	9-11-64	Boston College	12
10	†Strock, Don	QB	6-5	225	15	11-27-50	Virginia Tech	12
24	Thompson, Reyna	CB	5-11	194	3	8-28-63	Baylor	9
76	Toth, Tom	G	6-5	275	3	5-23-62	Western Michigan	12
95	Turner, T.J.	DE	6-4	275	3	5-16-63	Houston	12
	Warren, Vince	WR	6-0	180	2	2-18-63	San Diego State	*0
	Watters, Scott	LB	6-2	230	2	1- 1-65	Wittenberg	*3
	Wimberly, Derek	DE	6-4	265	2	1- 4-64	Purdue	3

^aCesario played 3 games with Cowboys in '87; Cline played 1 game with Steelers, 7 games with Dolphins in '87; Flaherty played 3 games with Bengals in '87; Gruber played 1 game with Packers, active for 2 games with Dolphins in '87, but did not play; Halloran played 3 games with Cardinals in '87; Holloway played 6 games with Buccaneers in '87; Hunley last active with Colts in '86; Jaworski active for 2 games with Dolphins in '87, but did not play; Jordan played 3 games with Packers in '87; Middleton played 3 games with Chargers in '87; Scott played 3 games with Colts in '87; Simpson played 3 games with Packers in '87; Warren last active with Giants in '86; Watters played 3 games with Bills in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Young and hungry Colts are thinking big after finally making playoffs in '87

By LEN PASQUARELLI
Fort Wayne Sentinel

Though Ron Meyer was born in Ohio and has been a National Football League head coach with New England and Indianapolis, his two years as a scout for the Dallas Cowboys and six seasons as coach at Southern Methodist University have given him a distinctly Lone Star State outlook on life. Like every Texan, native-born or adopted, Meyer likes b-i-i-i-i-g, pard'ner. Real big. Capital B. Capital I. Capital G. Big, son.

"In fact," says the first coach in a decade to lead the Colts to the playoffs, "I love big."

As in big linemen. Big running backs. Big safeties ready to plant big hits that lay big tight ends on their big ears. So, it should come as no great surprise that when Meyer decides it's time for an all-out off-season quarterback controversy, he goes out and concocts a big one.

How big? Well, shoot, it takes a 20-gallon hat to fit over the half-dozen heads vying for the Colts' starting job. Gary Hogeboom. Jack Trudeau. Sean Salisbury. Mark Herrmann. No. 3 draft pick Chris Chandler of Washington. And free agent Joe Pizzo of Mars Hill (N.C.) College, just as proof that Meyer has indeed searched every nook and cranny of the universe to solve the team's passing-game problems.

Heck, there was even a rumor that General Manager Jim Irsay was inquiring as to the whereabouts, physical condition and current contract status of Johnny Unitas.

In terms of numbers, the six quarterbacks who factor into the muddy quarterback equation figure to be the largest contingent to go to anyone's NFL camp in years. In terms of overall talent, however, the problem might be that what the Colts have are just a half dozen backups. Every other projected AFC East starting signal-caller, with the exception of the Jets' Ken O'Brien, has more starts individually than the Colt sextet's total of 53. O'Brien has 47.

Only once during the 1980s has a Colts quarterback ranked in the upper half of the NFL's passing statistics. Five times in those eight seasons, they've been in the bottom third. Four times they've rated in the bottom five. Twice the Colts have been dead last.

"We've got some quality," Meyer said. "And a lot depends on what happens with Gary's shoulder."

Actually, if Hogeboom—who has started just 11 of 31 regular-season games since being traded to Indianapolis in 1986—can come back from his second major shoulder injury and fourth debilitating scrape in just two seasons, the Colts' quarterback situation may not be as bleak as it appears. Or, if Meyer decides it's finally time to try to instill some confidence in



Quarterback Jack Trudeau will have to fight off the challenge of oft-injured Gary Hogeboom.

Trudeau, who's started 19 games in two seasons, perhaps the man who led the team into the playoffs last year will blossom into a top-flight NFL quarterback.

"Upgrading the consistency of our passing game is still the No. 1 priority," Irsay said. "It's probably what we need to do most to move onto the next level."

The strength of the Colts offense will once again be a line that features three 1987 Pro Bowlers in tackle Chris Hinton, guard Ron Solt and center Ray Donaldson. The unit surrendered just 24 sacks last season, the second-fewest in the league and an improvement of 29 over 1986.

The starting wide receiver tandem of Bill Brooks and Matt Bouza may have the lowest gain per catch in the AFC over the last two years (14.2 yards), but they've also caught more balls (229) over the same period than any other duo in the conference. And Meyer is hopeful that Clarence Verdin and Charlie Brown, ac-

quired in trades with Washington and Atlanta, respectively, or second-year players Mark Bellini and Roy Banks can add some speed.

Tight end Pat Beach (28 catches in '87) and H-back Mark Boyer (10) don't gain much real estate after the catch, but they're adept at hooking up in the 8-10-yard zone.

The Indy coaching staff spent much of the off-season devising ways to get the wondrously versatile Albert Bentley on the field in tandem with Eric Dickerson. The result seems to be a hybrid, five-position (H-back, slotback, halfback, fullback, flanker) role for Bentley, who finished second in the league to Herschel Walker in all-purpose yardage (1,578) and whose 13.1-yard average per reception was the highest for any NFL running back with more than 10 catches.

Even Dickerson, who in the 38-21 playoff loss at Cleveland gained more yards receiving than rushing, seems destined to become fully integrated into offensive coordinator John Becker's schemes.

Dickerson averaged nearly 28 carries and 126 yards rushing in his eight starts with the Colts, a pace that, projected over a full season, would break the league record for attempts and get the former Rams star his second 2,000-yard NFL campaign. Given a full training camp to work with a huge line that sometimes looked out of synch with his cutback style, Dickerson could do even better, although Meyer has vowed to relieve him of some of the load.

When the offense boggs down, it can resort to the right leg of placekicker Dean Biasucci, who in 1987 enjoyed the third-best season in NFL history by hitting 24 of 27 field-goal attempts. His .889 field-goal percentage was tops in the NFL and earned Biasucci a spot in the Pro Bowl.

Defensively, the ace is fourth-year linebacker Duane Bickett, a Jack Ham clone with more size than the Steelers' Hall-of-Famer. Bickett led the Colts in tackles (113) and sacks (8), and finished second in quarterback pressures (10) last season.

Despite an increase in sacks from 24 in 1986 to 39 last year, defensive coordinator George Hill would love to find a quick, upfield outside pass rusher to alleviate having to play Bickett and counterpart Johnnie Cooks—a solid if unspectacular player—at defensive end in passing situations.

Left end Donnell Thompson, coming off his best season in years, would benefit greatly from the emergence of Jon Hand, but it appears that Hand, the Colts' 1986 No. 1 pick, lacks the athleticism and desire to become a sackman. The Colts are confident that free agent Joe Klecko, if even a shadow of his former Jet All-Pro self at 34, can help tie up the middle and free up others.

Continued

The only sure bets in the secondary are that Eugene Daniel will line up at right corner and former No. 1 pick Leonard Coleman, a disappointment for three seasons, will line up either in another NFL city or at the unemployment office. Going into camp, the Colts had no fewer than 19 defensive backs, with two major battles shaping up.

Willie Tullis, who gave a surprisingly strong performance in what most viewed as a stop-gap role last year, will be challenged by fifth-round pick John Baylor (Southern Mississippi). And at strong safety, Nesby Glasgow will have to fight off fourth-rounder Michael Ball (Southern University) and former Cleveland starter Ray Ellis.

"We want people back there who will hit," Meyer says. "Like I said, I like big."

No matter what he likes, unless he resolves his quarterback situation, the only thing big that Meyer may find in 1988, when he faces a first-place schedule, is a B-I-I-I-G headache. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—HOUSTON	3:00
Sept. 11—CHICAGO	12:00
Sept. 19—at Cleveland (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 25—MIAMI	12:00
Oct. 2—at New England	1:00
Oct. 9—at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 16—TAMPA BAY	12:00
Oct. 23—at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 31—DENVER (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 6—NEW YORK JETS	4:00
Nov. 13—at Green Bay	12:00
Nov. 20—at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 27—NEW ENGLAND	4:00
Dec. 4—at Miami	1:00
Dec. 10—at New York Jets (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 18—BUFFALO	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(9-7)

Colts	Opp.	Att.
21 Cincinnati	23 (H)	59,387
10 Miami	23 (H)	57,524
St. Louis ^a	(A)	
47 Buffalo	6 (A)	9,860
6 New York Jets	0 (H)	34,927
7 Pittsburgh	21 (A)	34,627
30 New England	16 (H)	48,850
19 New York Jets	14 (A)	60,863
13 San Diego	16 (H)	60,459
40 Miami	21 (A)	65,433
0 New England	24 (A)	56,906
51 Houston	27 (H)	54,999
9 Cleveland	7 (A)	70,661
3 Buffalo	27 (H)	60,253
20 San Diego	7 (A)	46,211
24 Tampa Bay	6 (H)	60,468

AFC SEMIFINAL GAME

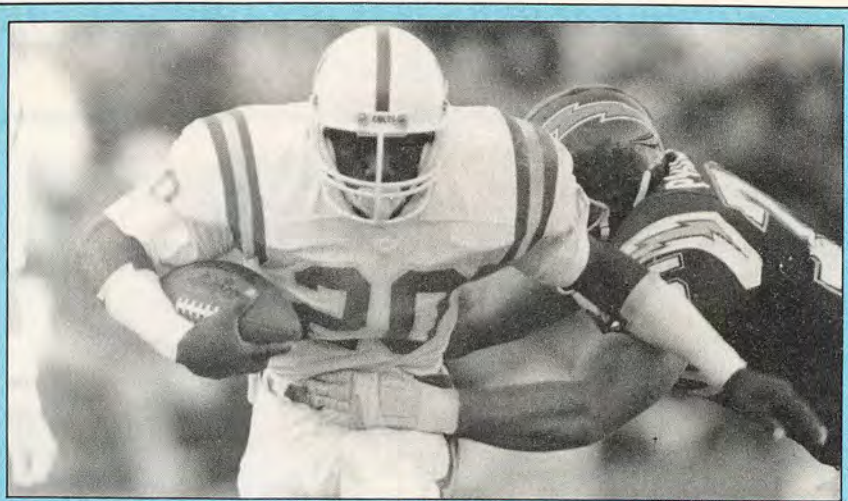
21 Cleveland	38 (A)	78,586
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^aGame cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice to L.A. Rams		
2. Choice to L.A. Rams		
3. CHANDLER, Chris	QB	Washington
4. BALL, Michael	DB	Southern U.
5. BAYLOR, John	DB	So. Mississippi
6. Choice to Washington		
7. Choice to N.Y. Giants		
8. Choice to Buffalo		
9. HERRD, Jeff	LB	Mississippi
10. ALSTON, O'Brien	LB	Maryland
11. DEE, Donnie	TE	Tulsa
12. KENNEY, Aatron	WR	Stevens Pt. Wis.
from Detroit		
12. VESLING, Tim	K	Syracuse



Indianapolis Colts running back Albert Bentley.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
57	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-4	249	8	12-6-58	Wisconsin	12
78	†Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6-3	268	6	12-29-59	Southern Methodist	11
35	Banks, Chuck	RB	6-1	227	3	1-4-64	West Virginia Tech	3
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	252	6	12-28-59	Washington State	12
87	Bellini, Mark	WR	5-11	185	2	1-19-64	Brigham Young	10
20	Bentley, Albert	RB	5-11	214	4	8-15-60	Miami (Fla.)	12
4	†Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	191	4	7-25-62	Western Carolina	12
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	243	4	12-1-62	Southern California	12
85	†Bouza, Matt	WR	6-3	212	7	4-8-59	California	12
84	†Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	242	4	9-16-62	Southern California	7
88	Brandes, John	TE	6-2	237	2	4-2-64	Cameron University	12
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	191	3	4-6-64	Boston University	12
74	†Brotzki, Bob	T	6-5	293	3	12-24-62	Syracuse	11
68	†Broughton, Willie	DE	6-5	281	3	9-9-64	Miami (Fla.)	*0
	Brown, Charlie	WR	5-10	184	7	10-29-58	South Carolina State	*6
72	†Call, Kevin	T	6-7	302	5	11-13-61	Colorado State	12
31	Coleman, Leonard	S	6-2	202	4	1-30-62	Vanderbilt	4
98	Cooks, Johnie	LB	6-4	252	7	11-23-58	Mississippi State	10
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	5-11	178	5	6-4-61	Louisiana State	12
72	†Darby, Byron	DE	6-4	260	6	6-4-60	Southern California	12
29	Dickerson, Eric	RB	6-3	217	6	9-2-60	Southern Methodist	*12
69	Dixon, Randy	T	6-3	293	2	3-12-65	Pittsburgh	3
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	288	9	5-17-58	Georgia	12
	Ellis, Ray	S	6-1	196	8	4-27-59	Ohio State	*12
25	Glasgow, Nesby	S	5-10	187	10	4-15-57	Washington	11
37	Goode, Chris	CB/S	6-0	193	2	9-17-63	Alabama	8
51	Hancock, Kevin	LB	6-2	225	1	1-8-62	Baylor	1
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	298	3	11-13-63	Alabama	12
	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	207	8	1-8-59	Purdue	*3
75	Hinton, Chris	G	6-4	295	6	7-31-61	Northwestern	12
7	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	208	9	8-21-58	Central Michigan	6
21	†Holt, John	CB	5-10	179	8	6-14-59	West Texas State	12
58	James, June	LB	6-1	236	3	12-2-62	Texas	11
94	Kellar, Scott	NT	6-3	279	3	12-31-63	Northern Illinois	3
	Klecko, Joe	NT	6-3	263	12	10-15-53	Temple	*7
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	269	10	3-17-57	Alabama	12
59	Lowry, Orlando	LB	6-4	236	4	8-14-61	Ohio State	8
49	McCloskey, Mike	TE	6-5	246	4	2-2-61	Penn State	*1
32	McMillan, Randy	RB	6-0	220	7	12-17-58	Pittsburgh	*0
86	Murray, Walter	WR	6-4	202	3	12-13-62	Hawaii	14
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	245	8	9-15-58	Texas-Arlington	12
65	Patten, Joel	T	6-7	307	3	2-7-58	Duke	12
43	Perryman, Jim	CB/S	6-0	187	3	12-23-60	Millikin	14
39	†Prior, Mike	CB/S	6-0	200	3	11-14-63	Illinois State	13
47	Robinson, Freddie	CB/S	6-1	191	2	2-1-64	Alabama	9
13	†Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	215	3	3-9-63	Southern California	2
76	†Sally, Jerome	NT	6-3	270	3	2-24-59	Missouri	12
83	Sherwin, Tim	TE	6-5	252	8	5-4-58	Boston College	8
66	†Solt, Ron	G	6-3	285	5	5-19-62	Maryland	12
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	204	7	5-4-59	Florida State	12
26	Swoope, Craig	CB/S	6-1	200	3	2-3-64	Illinois	*4
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-4	275	8	10-27-58	North Carolina	12
62	Thorp, Don	DT/DE	6-4	260	3	7-10-62	Illinois	5
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	213	3	9-9-62	Illinois	10
42	†Tullis, Willie	CB	5-11	195	8	4-5-58	Troy State	12
64	Utt, Ben	G	6-6	286	7	6-13-59	Georgia Tech	12
	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-8	160	3	6-14-63	Southwestern Louisiana	*3
48	Walczak, Mark	TE	6-6	246	2	4-26-62	Arizona	*10
34	Wonsley, George	RB	5-10	219	5	11-23-60	Mississippi State	11
27	Wright, Terry	CB/S	6-0	195	2	7-17-65	Temple	13

*Broughton and McMillan missed '87 season due to injury; Brown played 6 games with Falcons in '87; Dickerson played 3 games with Rams, 9 with Colts in '87; Ellis played 12 games with Browns in '87; Herrmann played 3 games with Chargers in '87; Klecko played 7 games with Jets in '87; McCloskey played 1 game with Eagles, inactive for 1 game with Colts in '87; Swoope played 1 game with Buccaneers, 3 with Colts in '87; Verdin played 3 games with Redskins in '87; Walczak played 2 games with Bills, 8 with Colts in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Key losses killed optimistic Pats in injury-plagued 1987 season

By KEVIN MANNIX
Boston Herald

A year ago, the New England Patriots were heavily favored to retain their American Football Conference East Division championship. They had, by far, the most talent and depth in the division while their competition had all kinds of problems. The Dolphins had no defense. The Colts had no quarterback. The Bills had no experience. And the Jets had no confidence or leadership.

So what happened? The Colts added Eric Dickerson and went on a post-strike run to capture the division crown. New England finished at 8-7, tied with Miami for second place and one game back of Indianapolis.

The Pats were done in by a string of injuries to key people at key positions. The worst situation existed at quarterback. Counting the three strike games, the Patriots had five players start at quarterback over the 15-week regular season. The position was so scrambled that the Patriots were the only team in the NFL without a quarterback to attempt enough passes (minimum 180) to qualify for the league passing title.

Steve Grogan, the team's Most Valuable Player, missed five games and was subpar in two others because of shoulder and neck problems. Tony Eason played only two full games before suffering a separated right shoulder and spending the season on injured reserve. That left Tom Ramsey in control for three critical games—Indianapolis, Philadelphia and at Denver—late in the year. New England lost two of them before winning its final three games when Grogan returned to the lineup.

Running back Craig James underwent knee surgery after two games. Centers Pete Brock and Guy Morriss and left tackles Art Plunkett and Steve Moore all went down because of injuries. Cornerback Raymond Clayborn missed the last five games after undergoing knee surgery, ending his club record of 147 consecutive starts. Outside linebacker Don Blackmon missed the last eight games with a neck injury that forced him to retire. He'll be an assistant coach with the team this year.

Despite all their injuries, the Pats ended the season on an upswing. In their final three games, they beat the Jets at home and the Bills and Dolphins on the road—the team's only two road victories of the year in non-strike games.

The difference was Grogan, who was in the lineup and healthy for those three games. The rest of the team responded to his leadership, playing their best football of the year. The Pats opened up a 35-6 halftime lead over the Jets and coasted to



Veteran receiver Stanley Morgan will try to come back strong in '88.

a 42-20 romp. They jumped to a 13-0 halftime lead in a hurricane in Buffalo and wound up winning, 13-7. They jumped all over Miami, 24-3 at halftime, and won 24-10.

"That was a good sign for us," Coach Raymond Berry said of the late-season rush. "We really hadn't been doing the job offensively until then."

When Grogan has been healthy the last three years, the Patriots have been a contender. But if Grogan should get hurt this year, Berry might not have Eason available to relieve him. Eason had to wear a tight sling for treatment of his separated shoulder. While the shoulder has healed, Eason said the sling caused some compacted nerves in his arm, affecting his ability to grip a ball.

When the nerves didn't heal on their own, Eason underwent surgery. He missed the April mini-camp and expressed concern about whether the nerves would be strong enough for him to play by the start of training camp.

And there was an additional complication. Eason's contract expired after the 1987 season and the team's first offer on a new deal involved a cut of some \$350,000 in base salary. Berry had already named Grogan the starter, so General Manager Pat Sullivan offered Eason a contract similar to the one he had offered Grogan when Grogan was the backup—a base salary with playing-time incentives.

Eason's friends say he is so upset with the demotion and the proposed pay cut that he might demand a trade or threaten a lengthy holdout.

Running back also may be a potential problem spot. James played in just two games last season and is coming off knee surgery. Seven-year veteran Tony Collins,

the team's leading rusher with 474 yards a year ago, was released in May.

The Pats, looking for help, drafted Northwestern (La.) State running back John Stephens on the first round. Like Collins, the 6-foot, 220-pound Stephens can play both fullback and halfback and is a willing blocker. He certainly has the confidence. When he was asked what NFL runner he'd compare himself to, Stephens answered, "Herschel Walker and Eric Dickerson."

The Patriots, of course, would be ecstatic with either. Although Reggie Dupard and Robert Perryman showed promise at the end of last season, the running game is in need of a transfusion. It averaged just 3.5 yards a carry last year after an NFL-low of 2.9 in 1986.

A player to watch is Elgin Davis—a fast, elusive 12th-round pick in '86. Davis was plagued by chronic muscle pulls last year, but the Pats believe that an off-season of steady rehabilitation has cured that.

The Patriots will also need more production from their wide receivers, regardless of who is throwing the ball. The team's leading receiver with 44 catches, Collins, is gone. One year after catching a career-high 84 passes, Pro Bowler Stanley Morgan slumped to 40 receptions and three touchdowns. Irving Fryar caught 31 passes, Cedric Jones 25 and Stephen Starling 17. The New England pass receivers must do better in light of a questionable running attack.

Defensively, the retirements of Blackmon and Steve Nelson created voids in the linebacking corps, but Vincent Brown, a second-round draft pick from Mississippi,

Continued

pi Valley State, could step in. He's 6-2, 250 pounds, has 4.8 speed in the 40-yard dash and is nicknamed "The Undertaker."

"They say I don't tackle people," he explained. "I bury them." The Patriots can only hope that rookies Brown and Stephens will play at a level comparable to their confidence.

There's little reason to feel pity for the Pats' defense, however, as long as All-Pro linebacker Andre Tippett is around. Tippett led the AFC with 12.5 sacks and played in the Pro Bowl for the fourth straight year. The San Francisco 49ers made a strong bid to sign the six-year linebacker as a free agent in the off-season, but Tippett re-signed with New England.

The Patriot player most under the gun, however, will be placekicker Tony Franklin. After leading the NFL with 32 field goals and 140 points in 1986, Franklin slumped to just 15 field goals and 82 points last year. He was successful on only four of 10 attempts from 40 yards or more. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—NEW YORK JETS.....	4:00
Sept. 11—at Minnesota.....	3:00
Sept. 18—BUFFALO.....	1:00
Sept. 25—at Houston.....	12:00
Oct. 2—INDIANAPOLIS.....	1:00
Oct. 9—vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee.....	12:00
Oct. 16—CINCINNATI.....	1:00
Oct. 23—at Buffalo.....	1:00
Oct. 30—CHICAGO.....	1:00
Nov. 6—MIAMI.....	1:00
Nov. 13—at New York Jets.....	1:00
Nov. 20—at Miami.....	8:00
Nov. 27—at Indianapolis.....	4:00
Dec. 4—SEATTLE.....	1:00
Dec. 11—TAMPA BAY.....	1:00
Dec. 17—at Denver (Sat.).....	2:00

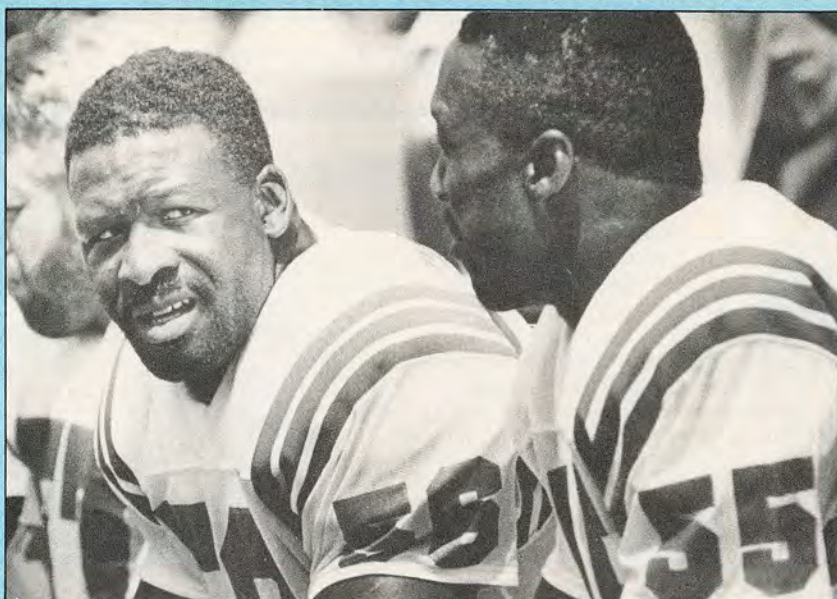
1987 RESULTS—(8-7)

Patriots	Opp.	Att.
28 Miami.....	21 (H)	54,642
24 New York Jets.....	43 (A)	70,847
Washington*.....	(A)	
10 Cleveland.....	20 (H)	14,830
14 Buffalo.....	7 (H)	11,878
21 Houston.....	7 (A)	26,294
16 Indianapolis.....	30 (A)	48,850
26 L.A. Raiders.....	23 (H)	60,664
10 New York Giants.....	17 (A)	73,817
17 Dallas (OT).....	23 (H)	60,567
24 Indianapolis.....	0 (H)	56,906
31 Philadelphia (OT).....	34 (H)	54,198
20 Denver.....	31 (A)	75,794
42 New York Jets.....	20 (H)	60,617
13 Buffalo.....	7 (A)	74,945
24 Miami.....	10 (A)	61,192

*Game cancelled due to strike.
Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. STEPHENS, John	RB	N.W. Louisiana
2. BROWN, Vincent	LB	Miss. Valley St.
3. REHDER, Tom	T	Notre Dame
4. GOAD, Tim	NT	North Carolina
from Tampa Bay		
4. MARTIN, Sammy	WR	Louisiana State
from Minnesota		
4. GARCIA, Teddy	K	N.E. Louisiana
5. WOLKOW, Troy	G	Minnesota
from L.A. Raiders		
5. Choice to Washington		
6. JOHNSON, Steve	TE	Virginia Tech
7. USHER, Darryl	WR	Illinois
8. Choice to Chicago		
9. GALBRAITH, Neil	DB	Cent. (Okla.) St.
10. LOSSOW, Rodney	C	Wisconsin
11. ALLEN, Marvin	RB	Tulane
12. NUGENT, Dave	NT	Boston College



New England Patriots linebacker Andre Tippett (56).

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	284	2	9- 7-65	Louisville	12
28	Bowman, Jim	S	6-2	210	4	10-26-63	Central Michigan	12
58	Brock, Pete	C	6-5	275	13	7-14-54	Colorado	4
3	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	185	8	11-29-59	Washington	12
26	Clayborn, Raymond	CB	6-0	186	12	1- 2-55	Texas	10
40	Davis, Elgin	RB	5-10	192	2	10-23-65	Central Florida	4
87	Dawson, Lin	TE	6-3	240	7	6-24-59	North Carolina State	12
21	Dupard, Reggie	RB	5-11	205	3	10-30-63	Southern Methodist	8
11	Eason, Tony	QB	6-4	212	6	10- 8-59	Illinois	4
66	Fairchild, Paul	G/C	6-4	270	5	9-14-61	Kansas	11
62	Farrell, Sean	G	6-3	260	7	5-25-60	Penn State	14
2	Flutie, Doug	QB	5-10	175	3	10-23-62	Boston College	*2
49	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	13	4- 3-53	Oregon	*9
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	10	11-18-56	Texas A&M	14
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	5	9-28-62	Nebraska	12
48	Gadbois, Dennis	WR	6-1	183	2	9-18-63	Boston University	3
43	Gibson, Ernest	CB	5-10	185	5	10- 3-61	Furman	12
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	210	14	7-24-53	Kansas State	7
35	Hansen, Bruce	RB	6-1	225	2	9-18-61	Brigham Young	6
41	Holmes, Darryl	S	6-2	190	2	9- 6-64	Fort Valley State	15
32	James, Craig	RB	6-0	215	4	1- 2-61	Southern Methodist	2
38	James, Roland	S	6-2	191	9	2-18-58	Tennessee	9
83	†Jones, Cedric	WR	6-1	184	7	6- 1-60	Duke	12
93	Jordan, Tim	LB	6-3	226	2	4-26-64	Wisconsin	5
17	Linne, Larry	WR	6-1	185	2	7-20-62	Texas-El Paso	3
42	†Tippett, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	6	12-10-60	Miami (Fla.)	12
31	Marion, Fred	S	6-2	191	7	8- 2-59	Miami (Fla.)	12
64	Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	270	4	10- 9-61	Brigham Young	6
48	McCabe, Jerry	LB	6-1	225	2	1-25-65	Holy Cross	3
50	†McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6-5	233	8	7-23-57	Southern California	12
23	†McSwain, Rod	CB	6-1	198	5	1-28-62	Clemson	12
67	Moore, Steve	T	6-5	305	6	10- 1-60	Tennessee State	5
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	181	12	2-17-55	Tennessee	10
75	Morris, Guy	C/G	6-4	260	16	5-13-51	Texas Christian	11
34	Perryman, Bob	RB	6-1	233	2	10-16-64	Michigan	9
	Peterson, Joe	CB	5-10	180	2	8-15-64	Nevada-Reno	3
	Pickering, Clay	WR	6-5	215	4	6- 2-61	Maine	1
70	Plunkett, Art	T	6-8	282	7	3- 8-59	Nevada-Las Vegas	7
22	Profit, Eugene	CB	5-10	175	3	11-11-64	Yale	7
12	†Ramsey, Tom	QB	6-1	189	4	7- 9-61	UCLA	9
52	†Rembert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	6	1-19-61	Clemson	11
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	242	6	9-23-61	Virginia	12
65	Ruth, Mike	NT	6-1	266	2	2-25-64	Boston College	2
77	†Sims, Kenneth	DE	6-5	271	7	10-31-59	Texas	12
81	†Starring, Stephen	WR	5-10	172	6	7-30-61	McNeese State	11
30	Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6-0	227	11	4-26-55	Southern Methodist	12
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	7	12-27-59	Iowa	13
60	Veris, Garin	DE	6-4	255	4	2-27-63	Stanford	12
73	Villa, Danny	T	6-5	305	2	9-21-64	Arizona State	11
24	Weathers, Robert	RB	6-2	225	6	9-13-60	Arizona State	*0
	Wichard, Murray	DL	6-2	260	2	11-16-63	Frostburg State	3
	Wilburn, Steve	DE	6-4	266	2	2-25-61	Lincoln College	3
96	Williams, Brent	DE	6-3	278	3	10-23-64	Toledo	12
54	†Williams, Ed	LB	6-4	244	5	9- 8-61	Texas	12
90	†Williams, Toby	NT	6-4	270	6	11-19-59	Nebraska	12
61	†Wooten, Ron	G	6-4	273	7	6-28-59	North Carolina	13

*Flutie played 1 game with Bears, 1 with Patriots in '87; Francis played 8 games with 49ers, 1 with Patriots in '87; Weathers missed '87 season due to injury.

†Option play; subject to developments.

Retired—Don Blackmon, 7-year linebacker, 4 games in '87; Steve Nelson, 14-year linebacker, 11 games in '87.

Old, toothless Jets must recover after a season of discontent

By PETER FINNEY JR.
New York Post

The Williamsburg Bridge over Manhattan's East River is crumbling, but not as badly as another Big Apple entity—the New York Jets.

After two consecutive playoff seasons, the Jets lost their final four games of a dissension-torn 1987 campaign to limp home 6-9 and in last place in the American Football Conference's Eastern Division. Privately, Coach Joe Walton's players had questioned his leadership the same way Walton had questioned their resolve throughout the dismal year.

Player discontent did not reach the mutiny stage, however. In the Jets' organization, the only vote that counts is the one that rarely, if ever, is heard. Leon Hess, billionaire oilman, gave Walton the only vote of confidence he needed when he told Walton in the midst of the team's annual December slide that he would return as coach in 1988.

But even Walton, a no-nonsense tactician with little regard for bellyaching, could sense the warning signals coming from the locker room. Walton had played tough-guy after tough losses, accusing his players of "stealing money" and of being "pea-brains who wouldn't amount to anything after football."

After an off-season of re-evaluation, Walton admitted he made mistakes in handling the volatile situation after the veterans returned from the strike.

"Probably the most significant was (failing to recognize) the sensitivity of the team following the strike," Walton said. "There was a sensitivity that extended throughout the league, and it was magnified pretty good on our team."

Spotty drafting in the 1980s has turned the Jets into an old and virtually toothless team. Evidence of that was Walton's off-season decision to cut five over-30 veterans whose performances he felt had slipped. Gone are nose tackle Joe Klecko, center Joe Fields, defensive end Barry Bennett, punter Dave Jennings and backup tackle Gordon King, a combined 57 years of NFL experience.

Klecko's departure was the most unpleasant. The four-time Pro Bowler was unceremoniously waived in February when he refused Walton's offer to retire and become the Jets' defensive line coach. Klecko had played the final seven games of the 1987 season without pain after returning from the second reconstructive knee surgery of his career.

Klecko felt he deserved another chance to return to training camp. However, the Jets' orthopedist, Dr. Jim Nicholas, said Klecko would be risking serious harm to his knee if he continued to play. The club said it allowed him to come back on the knee last year because he deserved a



Pro Bowl receiver Al Toon is the New York Jets' big-play man

final chance to make the Super Bowl. More likely it was because the Jets needed to see if Klecko had anything left. But when Klecko jumped offside 10 times in three games, it became obvious they had to look elsewhere.

Now Klecko is in Indianapolis, and will get two chances to prove Walton wrong. On November 6 and December 10, the Jets and Colts will play each other.

The Jets tried to address one of their major weaknesses—the offensive line—in the draft. With the eighth pick of the first round, they selected tackle Dave Cadigan of Southern Cal, a 6-foot-4, 285-pounder who was immediately penciled in as a starter at left tackle. The Jets' undersized line allowed 66 sacks last year, the most in the AFC, but if Cadigan can hold his own on the left side, Jim Sweeney, a 275-pounder, can slide over from tackle to center. Two problems solved with one pick? The Jets hope so.

"Cadigan's got the size we're looking for, and he's played left tackle," Walton said. "We need to get some big people to compete because the length of the season has become such a factor. What happens to small guys is that they wear down."

Left guard Mike Haight, a disappointing No. 1 pick in 1986, has been given a starting job virtually by default and will play at 280 pounds this year, up 10 pounds from 1987. The right side is fairly solid, with 12-year pro Dan Alexander at guard and Reggie McElroy at tackle. McElroy will play at 290.

The Jets did not use the draft to address their woeful pass-rush problems, however. After recording only 29 sacks last year, they will need a banner year from Mark Gastineau, who has accounted for just 6.5

sacks in the last two seasons.

Gastineau showed up at 250 pounds at training camp last year, but after being ineffective early in the season, he beefed up to 265. He'll play this year at 270, but Walton has put his job on the line.

The Jets did use the draft to try to answer defensive coordinator Bud Carson's 3-year-old plea for faster defensive backs. They drafted three speedsters in the first three rounds: cornerback Terry Williams (Bethune-Cookman) in the second round and safety Erik McMillan (Missouri) and cornerback James Hasty (Washington State) in the third. All three can run the 40 in 4.4 seconds and will be given every chance to succeed, which is why slow-footed Jerry Holmes has been moved from corner to safety.

One piece of defensive good news is that nose tackle Tom Baldwin, who missed the entire '87 season with a broken bone in his foot, should be able to start, perhaps freeing up second-year lineman Scott Mersereau to move in as a pass-rushing end.

The other major defensive change involves Bob Crable moving from outside to inside linebacker, where his great instincts and tackling ability compensate for his lack of speed. Alex Gordon (a team-leading five sacks) had a very solid rookie year at left outside linebacker.

On offense, the Jets will have difficulty bringing back the long ball unless quarterback Ken O'Brien, who was sacked 50 times in 12 games, gets the time to set up and throw. In the last four games, O'Brien completed only five passes longer than 20 yards, and four of those went to Al Toon,

Continued

who made the Pro Bowl after leading the AFC with 68 catches for 976 yards.

Toon should be more effective if Wesley Walker, now 33 years old, can bounce back from a shoulder injury. Walker has averaged at least 20.7 yards per catch in his last three seasons, but he caught only one pass for 11 yards after the strike and nine total last year.

Walton had running back Freeman McNeil (530 yards rushing) on the trading block last season, but he'll probably resist the urge to trade him now. Johnny Hector is a capable lead runner, but, like McNeil, he has a nagging habit of getting hurt. Fullback Roger Vick (3.3 yards per carry) is coming off an inconsistent rookie year.

Pat Leahy, who connected on 18 of 22 field-goal attempts and didn't miss an extra point try, will again be the Jets' placekicker. Leahy missed just one field-goal attempt under 40 yards last year. The punting successor to Jennings, however, is anyone's guess.

"We have a lot of holes to fill," Walton said. "But we're not as bad off as people might think." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at New England	4:00
Sept. 11—at Cleveland	4:00
Sept. 18—HOUSTON	1:00
Sept. 25—at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 2—KANSAS CITY	4:00
Oct. 9—at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 17—BUFFALO (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 23—at Miami	4:00
Oct. 30—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 6—at Indianapolis	4:00
Nov. 13—NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 20—at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 27—MIAMI	1:00
Dec. 4—at Kansas City	3:00
Dec. 10—INDIANAPOLIS (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 18—NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(6-9)

Jets	Opp.	Att.
31 Buffalo	28 (A)	76,718
43 New England	24 (H)	70,847
Pittsburgh*	(A)	
24 Dallas	38 (H)	12,370
0 Indianapolis	6 (A)	34,927
37 Miami (OT)	31 (H)	18,249
16 Washington	17 (A)	53,497
14 Indianapolis	19 (H)	60,863
30 Seattle	14 (H)	60,452
16 Kansas City	9 (A)	40,718
14 Buffalo	17 (H)	58,407
27 Cincinnati	20 (H)	41,135
28 Miami	37 (A)	58,879
20 New England	42 (A)	60,617
27 Philadelphia	38 (H)	30,752
7 New York Giants	20 (A)	68,318

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. CADIGAN, Dave	T	Southern Cal
2. WILLIAMS, Terry	DB	Bethune-Cook.
3. McMILLAN, Erik	DB	Missouri
3. HASTY, James	DB	Washington St.
from Houston through L.A. Raiders		
4. Choice to L.A. Raiders		
5. WITHYCOMBE, Mike	T	Fresno State
6. FRASE, Paul	DE	Syracuse
7. PATTON, Gary	RB	Eastern Mich.
8. NEUBERT, Keith	TE	Nebraska
9. TAMM, Ralph	G	W. Ch'tr, Pa.
10. BOOTY, John	DB	Texas Christian
11. GALVIN, John	LB	Boston College
12. GOSS, Albert	NT	Jackson State



New York Jets defensive end Mark Gastineau.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
60	Alexander, Dan	G/T	6-4	274	12	6-17-55	Louisiana State	12
97	Baldwin, Don	DE	6-3	263	2	7- 9-64	Purdue	8
95	Baldwin, Tom	DT	6-4	270	4	5-13-61	Tulsa	0
63	Banker, Ted	G/C	6-2	275	5	2-17-61	Southeast Missouri	13
31	Barber, Marion	RB	6-3	228	7	12- 6-59	Minnesota	12
54	†Benson, Troy	LB	6-2	235	3	7-30-63	Pittsburgh	11
64	Bingham, Guy	C/G	6-3	260	9	2-25-58	Montana	12
23	Bligen, Dennis	RB	5-11	215	5	3- 3-62	St. John's	6
	Caldwell, Darryl	T	6-5	245	2	2- 2-60	Tennessee State	0
	Chickillo, Tony	DT	6-3	257	2	7- 8-60	Miami (Fla.)	2
59	†Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	5	8-23-62	Texas Christian	12
50	Crabbe, Bob	LB	6-3	230	7	9-22-59	Notre Dame	12
	Davis, Lee	DB	5-11	198	3	12-18-62	Mississippi	3
	Dennison, Glenn	TE	6-3	225	2	11-17-61	Miami (Fla.)	0
	Dunn, K.D.	TE	6-3	235	4	4-28-63	Clemson	3
22	Dykes, Sean	CB	5-10	170	2	8- 8-64	Bowling Green	6
52	Elam, Onzy	LB	6-2	225	2	12- 1-64	Tennessee State	5
30	†Faaola, Nuu	RB	5-11	210	3	1-15-64	Hawaii	12
8	Flick, Tom	QB	6-2	190	5	9-30-58	Washington	0
98	Foster, Jerome	DE/DT	6-2	275	4	7-25-60	Ohio State	4
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	255	10	11-20-56	East Central Oklahoma	15
35	Glenn, Kerry	CB	5-9	175	3	3-31-62	Minnesota	8
55	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	246	2	9-14-64	Cincinnati	12
81	Griggs, Billy	TE	6-3	230	4	8- 4-62	Virginia	12
79	Haight, Mike	G/T	6-4	270	3	10- 6-62	Iowa	6
39	†Hamilton, Harry	S	6-0	195	5	11-29-62	Penn State	12
84	Harper, Michael	WR	5-10	180	3	5-11-61	Southern California	3
51	Haslett, Jim	LB	6-3	236	9	12- 9-56	Indiana (Pa.)	3
34	Hector, Johnny	RB	5-11	200	6	11-26-60	Texas A&M	11
47	†Holmes, Jerry	CB	6-2	175	7	12-22-57	West Virginia	8
28	†Howard, Carl	CB/S	6-2	190	5	9-20-61	Rutgers	12
	Howe, Glenn	T	6-7	298	3	10-18-61	Southern Mississippi	0
48	Humphrey, Bobby	CB/KR	5-10	180	5	8-23-61	New Mexico State	12
	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	285	13	12- 1-52	Arkansas	5
89	†Klever, Rocky	TE	6-3	230	6	7-10-59	Montana	12
	Krericowicz, Mark	T	6-4	282	3	3- 1-63	Ohio State	3
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	193	15	3-19-51	St. Louis	12
21	Lewis, Sid	CB	5-11	180	2	5-30-64	Penn State	2
	Lindstrom, Chris	DE	6-7	260	4	8- 3-60	Boston University	3
26	Lyles, Lester	S	6-3	218	4	12-27-62	Virginia	4
93	Lyons, Marty	DE/DT	6-5	269	10	1-15-57	Alabama	13
	Mackey, Kyle	QB	6-3	220	3	3- 2-62	East Texas State	3
86	Martin, Tracy	WR/KR	6-3	205	2	12- 4-64	North Dakota	12
57	McArthur, Kevin	LB	6-2	245	3	5-11-63	Lamar	12
68	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	275	6	3- 4-60	West Texas State	8
24	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	214	8	4-22-59	UCLA	9
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	233	9	2-14-58	Penn State	3
94	Mersereau, Scott	DE	6-3	278	2	4- 8-65	Southern Connecticut	13
36	†Miano, Rich	S	6-0	200	4	9- 3-62	Hawaii	12
58	Monger, Matt	LB	6-1	238	4	11-15-61	Oklahoma State	12
77	Nichols, Gerald	DT	6-2	261	2	2-10-64	Florida State	13
7	O'Brien, Ken	QB	6-4	208	6	11-27-60	California-Davis	12
	Prokop, Joe	P	6-3	225	3	7- 7-60	Cal Poly-Pomona	3
25	†Radachowsky, George	S	5-11	190	4	9- 7-62	Boston College	8
	Renner, Bill	P	6-0	198	3	5-23-59	Virginia Tech	3
92	Rose, Ken	LB	6-1	215	2	6- 9-61	Nevada-Las Vegas	10
10	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	210	11	9-16-55	Tennessee	13
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	11	8-21-56	Penn State	11
87	†Sohn, Kurt	WR/KR	5-11	180	7	6-26-57	Fordham	12
53	†Sweeney, Jim	T/G	6-4	275	5	8- 8-62	Pittsburgh	12
88	Toon, Al	WR	6-4	205	4	4-30-63	Wisconsin	12
83	†Townsell, JoJo	WR/KR	5-9	180	4	11- 4-60	UCLA	12
43	Vick, Roger	RB	6-3	232	2	8-11-64	Texas A&M	12
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	182	12	5-26-55	California	5
	Witkowski, John	QB	6-1	205	3	6-18-62	Columbia	0
38	Zordich, Mike	S	5-11	207	2	10-12-63	Penn State	10

*T. Baldwin and Caldwell missed '87 season due to injury; Dennison played 2 games with Redskins, inactive for 4 games with Jets in '87; Dunn played 3 games with Redskins in '87; Flick active for 1 game with Jets in '87, but did not play; Howe active for 1 game with Cowboys in '87, but did not play; Krericowicz played 3 games with Browns in '87; Lindstrom played 3 games with Chiefs in '87; Mackey played 3 games with Dolphins in '87; Prokop played 3 games with Chargers in '87; Renner played 3 games with Packers in '87; Witkowski active for 3 games with Oilers in '87, but did not play.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

"Dawgs" should still have their day in NFL's new Black and Blue Division

By ED BOUCHETTE
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ladies and gentleman, welcome to the National Football League's new Black and Blue Division, a private club for non-players only.

Pittsburgh Steelers Coach Chuck Noll refuses to shake the hand of Cincinnati Bengals Coach Sam Wyche, but he wouldn't let loose of Houston Oilers Coach Jerry Glanville's after a game last season in which Noll practically threatened to punch Glanville in the nose.

For years, Noll has accused Glanville of promoting the use of dirty tactics by his players, including "holding people up and coming in on their ribs."

Noll insists that Glanville-coached teams have "led the league in personal fouls wherever Jerry's been in the past, but just never got called."

Glanville retorts: "He ought to do a study on his own team."

Adds Noll: "Tell him to save a little for after the game."

Over in this corner, Cleveland Browns Owner Art Modell and Houston Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzeg are tossing verbal jabs at each other.

When the Oilers exceeded their allotted time limit in the first round of the year's draft, allowing the Browns to pick ahead of them, Modell publicly pointed out the gaffe, and guffawed.

Herzeg angrily charged Modell with trying to "embarrass" his team. In past years, Houston usually managed to embarrass itself. But, amid all the charges of brutality, has anyone noticed that the Oilers have assembled one exciting football team?

Last year's playoff appearance, the team's first since 1980, was no fluke. In fact, Houston may very well be close to ending Cleveland's three-year grip on the AFC Central Division title.

While the Browns remain on the lookout for a pass-rusher, an outside linebacker and a tight end, Houston already has filled its biggest need, acquiring defensive end Sean Jones from the Los Angeles Raiders prior to the draft. Jones should make an immediate impact on a hard-hitting defense whose Achilles' heel had been the lack of a pass-rusher.

The Oilers then selected Michigan State tailback Lorenzo White in the first round of the draft, creating a tantalizing backfield trio of Alonzo Highsmith, Mike Rozier and White. Considering that their wide receivers (Drew Hill, Ernest Givins, Willie Drewrey and Curtis Duncan) are the best in the conference and that the offensive line finally jelled last season, if quarterback Warren Moon can continue his upward spiral, the Oilers should follow suit.

The word out of Cleveland is that two

TSN's Predictions

FINISH	COMMENT
1. Cleveland	Still team to beat in conference. Defense should get better and quarterback Bernie Kosar heads offense.
2. Cincinnati	Look for bounce-back season from Bengals. Offense always explosive, but improvement must come from defense.
3. Houston	Aggressive style will have opponents ready. However, versatile offense and improving defense capable of winning.
4. Pittsburgh	Quarterback questions and lack of breakaway speed on offense holds Steelers back. Defense keeps them close.

straight near-misses in the AFC Championship Game have not damaged the Browns' psyche and might well have strengthened their desire to grab the brass ring this season.

"We are more determined than ever," Browns Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer said. "We will find a way to take that next step. We will do whatever it takes to win the league championship."

But a few chinks are showing in the Browns' armor. Last year's bold draft move—trading outside linebacker Chip Banks to the San Diego Chargers to move up 19 spots in the first round in order to pick linebacker Mike Junkin—was a disaster. Junkin, who played inside linebacker at Duke, was woefully unable to fill Banks' shoes on the outside when a broken wrist ended his season after four games.

So, in this year's draft, the Browns spent another first-round pick trying to replace Banks, choosing Florida's Clifford Charlton. Cleveland also did not secure the pass-rusher it—and every other team in the AFC Central—so badly needed.

Those question marks notwithstanding, the Browns possess one of the finest defenses in the league. The "Dawgs" led the conference in run defense and the league in fewest touchdowns allowed. Their phenomenal cornerbacks, Frank Minnifield and Hanford Dixon, started in the Pro Bowl.

Cleveland also had success using the "Bear" defense, which features outside linebacker Clay Matthews lining up across from the opponent's tight end. Matthews played the position so well that he, too, made the Pro Bowl.

This may be the year the Browns tinker with their offense as well. Lindy Infante, their offensive coordinator for the last two years, now is the head coach of the Green Bay Packers. In his absence, Schottenheimer will take control of the offense. He is expected to unleash quarterback Bernie Kosar, allowing Kosar to throw deep more than in past seasons.

Kosar was brilliant in 1987, leading the league in passing efficiency (95.4 rating), completion percentage (62.0) and yards-per-attempt (7.8). Since the Browns' running game ranked a lowly 11th in the con-

ference and 21st in the league, the importance of Kosar becomes even more acute.

Pittsburgh came within one game of making the playoffs last season instead of Houston, losing to the Browns in the final game of the regular season. But the Steelers might have been more of a mirage than the Oilers. Even though three rookie defensive backs—Delton Hall, Thomas Everett and Rod Woodson—instantly breathed life into their secondary, the Steelers' age is showing, and their poor drafts of the past decade haven't helped, either.

Chuck Noll enters his 20th season as the Steelers' head coach with these major questions hanging over him:

- Can inexperienced Bubby Brister, Pittsburgh's third-round draft pick in 1986, or previously ineffective Todd Blackledge, a Kansas City Chiefs castoff, produce better at quarterback than Mark Malone, the lowest-rated passer in the league last season who has been dispatched to San Diego?

- With the retirement of John Stallworth, can Louis Lipps, injured and a non-factor for much of the last two seasons, stay healthy and salvage a thin receiving corps?

- Can 1988 first-round draft pick Aaron Jones, a defensive end from Eastern Kentucky, do for the Steelers' feeble pass rush what Hall, Everett and Woodson have done for their secondary?

- And can an aging, injury-plagued offensive line, led by 36-year-old Pro Bowl center Mike Webster, hold up for another season?

The questions surrounding Cincinnati are more mysterious. Their divisional foes like to note that the Bengals have the most talent of the four. This can be interpreted either as rubbing it in or as a lack of respect for Cincinnati's coaching staff. Whatever the case, the numbers show that Head Coach Sam Wyche has a 29-34 record in four seasons with the Bengals. And, after a disastrous 4-11 record in 1987, he barely made it to his fifth.

This being the last year of Wyche's contract, he is not expected to make it to a sixth unless the Bengals' record matches all of that talent. ■

Browns keep knocking on the door, but can't quite seem to get in

By JEFF SCHUDEL
Horvitz Newspapers

After falling one game short each of the last two years, the Cleveland Browns are depending on the raw-knuckle theory to finally get them to the Super Bowl.

In January of 1987 and 1988, the Browns duelled the Denver Broncos for the American Football Conference championship, losing both times. Most recently, Cleveland battled back from 21-3 and 28-10 deficits and were three yards away from tying the score when running back Earnest Byner fumbled with 1:05 to play. It was the fourth time, including the regular season, that Byner had fumbled inside the opponent's 10-yard line.

In 1987, the Browns lost the AFC championship to Denver, 23-20 in overtime. They led, 20-13, at Cleveland Stadium with five minutes to play before John Elway led a 98-yard drive to tie the score with 37 seconds left.

Cleveland's 22-9 regular-season record is the best in the AFC over the past two years, but the Browns just can't seem to get over the hump and into the NFL's grand showcase.

"The only way to get to the Super Bowl is to keep knocking on the door," Browns Coach Marty Schottenheimer said. "The Raiders made the playoffs eight times in nine years before they finally won a Super Bowl. They lost the AFC championship six out of seven years."

After knocking on the door for two years and getting nothing but sore knuckles, Schottenheimer figures it might be time to bust the damn thing down. He and the scouting department went into the April draft bent on bolstering the defense, even though statistically it was one of the best in the NFL.

Only the Indianapolis Colts (238) allowed fewer points than the Browns (239), and the Browns finished the season tied with San Francisco for the fewest touchdowns allowed (26).

The Browns used their first five picks on defensive players for the first time in team history. They drafted linebacker Clifford Charlton (Florida) in the first round, defensive lineman Michael Dean Perry (Clemson) in the second; linebacker Van Waiters (Indiana) in the third; cornerback Anthony Blaylock (Winston-Salem State) in the fourth, and defensive back Thane Gash (East Tennessee State) in the seventh. The first four could contribute significantly in Cleveland's quest for a fourth straight Central Division championship.

With the draft of Charlton and Waiters, both outside linebackers, last year's first-round pick, Mike Junkin, will be moved inside. Junkin was used outside as a rookie after playing inside at Duke. He didn't



Pro Bowler Kevin Mack (above) again will team with Earnest Byner in the Browns' powerful offensive backfield.

like the change, held out, then suffered a severe wrist injury. The news he was going inside was almost as good as the doctor's prognosis of recovery.

"It sounds good to me," said Junkin, who should improve substantially on his anemic seven tackles of a year ago. "I've been an inside linebacker since I was 7 years old."

Cleveland's starting linebacking unit of Clay Matthews on the outside and Eddie Johnson and Mike Johnson on the inside is one of the best in the league. Mike Johnson led the Browns with 98 tackles a year ago. Charlton should take the spot of Lucius Sanford, released in the off-season.

Rookies Charlton, Perry and Waiters all have the same mission: Put heat on the quarterback, a perennial problem in Cleveland. Had the Browns been able to get to Elway, they, instead of Denver, might have faced the Giants and Redskins

in the last two Super Bowls.

If the rookies can't do it, then free agents Charles Buchanan, Chris Pike and Marlon Jones will be asked to rush the passer from their spots on the defensive line. They'll join veterans Carl Hairston, Sam Clancy, Reggie Camp and Dave Puzzuoli—a foursome that combined for just 16.5 sacks last year—in the battle for jobs.

The strength of the defense, however, is the secondary. Both starting cornerbacks, Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield, started in the Pro Bowl. Felix Wright beat out Al Gross at free safety and tied with Minnifield for the team lead with four interceptions. Last year's strong safety, Ray Ellis, is now with Indianapolis and the job likely will go to fifth-year man Chris Rockins.

The Browns aren't supposed to have a new look on offense, but time will tell. Offensive coordinator Lindy Infante left to become head coach at Green Bay and Schottenheimer, a linebacker as a player and a defense-oriented coach, is taking over the offense.

Can Schottenheimer replace Infante? He thinks he can. He's asked quarterbacks Bernie Kosar, Gary Danielson and Mike Pagel to attend the coaches' meetings on Tuesdays, normally the players' day off, to help prepare the game plan.

"If it means helping us win the championship, it's worth sacrificing a couple hours on my day off," Kosar said.

Kosar was superb in his second full season as a starting quarterback. His 95.4 rating was second in the NFL, he threw 22 touchdown passes, just nine interceptions and completed 62 percent of his passes. The Browns' 390 points scored was the third-highest total in the league and they scored on 46 of 54 drives inside the opposition's 20-yard line.

Because of that, it's unlikely there will be many personnel changes on the offense. Byner and Pro Bowler Kevin Mack both started in all 12 of the Browns' non-strike games after playing only seven quarters together in '86 because of injuries. The duo combined for 1,942 total yards in 1987 and will start in the backfield for the fourth straight year.

Webster Slaughter (47 receptions, seven touchdowns) again will be Kosar's favorite target with Brian Brennan (43 catches, six touchdowns) also figuring to catch a lot of passes. Kosar is a quarterback who likes to spread it around—he threw passes to at least seven different players in 10 games last year and to at least five different receivers in every game.

Tight end Ozzie Newsome, entering his 11th NFL campaign as the all-time leader at his position with 575 receptions, contemplated retirement but has decided to play one more season.

The offensive line should again be solid. Pro Bowler Cody Risien and Paul Farren

will man the tackle spots, Dan Fike and Larry Williams the guard spots and Mike Baab will be the center. Tackle Rickey Bolden, who broke his ankle midway through last season, should be ready to start the season.

Heading into training camp, the Browns' biggest concern aside from finding a pass rusher and adding speed to the defense was finding a consistent punter. They started last season with Jeff Gossett, waived him, used George Winslow, waived him, and finally settled on barefooted Lee Johnson, picked up on waivers from Buffalo. Johnson averaged 39.4 yards on 50 kicks in '87.

Over the winter Cleveland signed free agent Shaun Burdick, who failed after one week in Cincinnati's camp last summer, to compete with Johnson.

The placekicking duties should be handled by Jeff Jaeger, who kicked 14 field goals and all 33 of his extra-point attempts as a rookie last year. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Kansas City	3:00
Sept. 11—NEW YORK JETS	4:00
Sept. 19—INDIANAPOLIS (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 25—at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 2—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 9—SEATTLE	1:00
Oct. 16—PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Oct. 23—at Phoenix	1:00
Oct. 30—CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov. 7—at Houston (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 13—at Denver	2:00
Nov. 20—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 27—at Washington	1:00
Dec. 4—DALLAS	1:00
Dec. 12—at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 18—HOUSTON	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(11-6)

Browns	Opp.	Att.
21 New Orleans	28 (A)	59,900
34 Pittsburgh	10 (H)	79,543
Denver*	(H)	
20 New England	10 (A)	14,830
10 Houston	15 (H)	38,927
34 Cincinnati	0 (A)	40,170
30 L.A. Rams	17 (H)	76,933
24 San Diego (OT)	27 (A)	55,381
38 Atlanta	3 (H)	71,135
27 Buffalo	21 (H)	78,409
40 Houston	7 (A)	51,161
24 San Francisco	38 (A)	60,248
7 Indianapolis	9 (H)	70,661
38 Cincinnati	24 (H)	77,331
24 L.A. Raiders	17 (A)	40,275
19 Pittsburgh	13 (A)	56,394

AFC SEMIFINAL GAME

38 Indianapolis	21 (H)	78,586
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AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

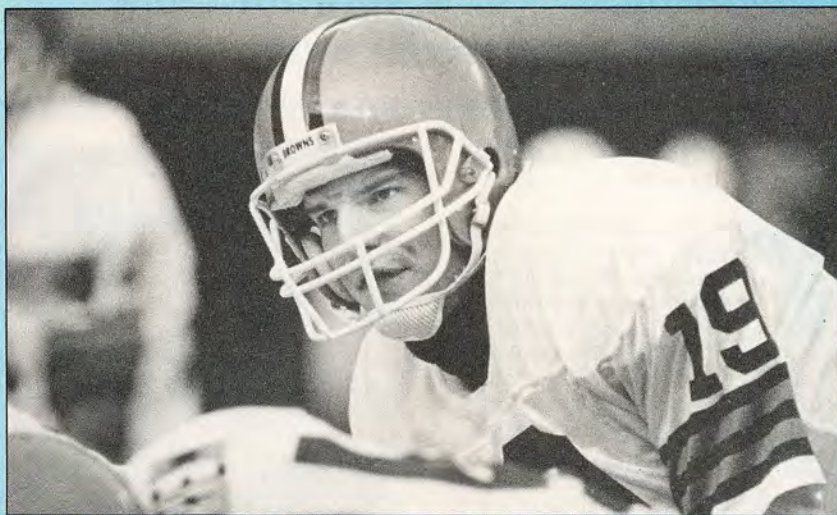
33 Denver	38 (A)	75,993
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. CHARLTON, Clifford	LB	Florida
2. PERRY, Michael Dean	DT	Clemson
3. WAITERS, Van	LB	Indiana
4. BLAYLOCK, Anthony	DB	Winston-Salem
5. Choice to Phoenix		
6. Choice to Philadelphia		
7. GASH, Thane	WR	E. Tenn. St.
8. BIRDEN, J.J.	DB	Oregon
9. COPELAND, Danny	DB	E. Kentucky
10. WASHINGTON, Brian	DB	Nebraska
11. HAWKINS, Hendley	WR	Nebraska
12. SLAYDEN, Steve	QB	Duke



Cleveland Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
61	Baab, Mike	C	6-4	270	7	12- 6-59	Texas	12
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	10	7- 6-56	Penn State	3
60	†Baker, Al	DE	6-6	270	11	12- 9-56	Colorado State	12
43	Baker, Tony	RB	5-10	175	2	6-11-64	East Carolina	*0
77	Bolden, Rickey	T	6-6	280	5	9- 8-61	Southern Methodist	5
75	Bosley, Keith	T	6-5	320	2	6-19-63	Eastern Kentucky	3
36	Braggs, Stephen	CB/S	5-9	173	2	8-29-65	Texas	12
86	Brennan, Brian	WR	5-9	178	5	2-15-62	Boston College	13
44	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	5	9-15-62	East Carolina	12
96	†Camp, Reggie	DE	6-4	280	6	2-28-61	California	6
91	†Clancy, Sam	DE	6-7	260	5	5-29-58	Pittsburgh	13
47	Crawford, Mike	RB	5-10	215	2	1- 3-64	Arizona State	3
18	Danielson, Gary	QB	6-2	196	11	9-10-51	Purdue	6
29	Dixon, Hanford	CB	5-11	186	8	12-25-58	Southern Mississippi	12
	Dressel, Chris	TE	6-4	238	5	2- 7-61	Stanford	*1
26	Dudley, Brian	S	6-1	180	2	8-30-60	Bethune-Cookman	3
74	†Farren, Paul	T/G	6-5	280	6	12-24-60	Boston University	12
69	Fike, Dan	G	6-7	280	4	6-16-61	Florida	12
28	Fontenot, Herman	RB	6-0	206	4	9-12-63	Louisiana State	12
79	Golic, Bob	NT	6-2	270	9	10-26-57	Notre Dame	12
56	Grayson, David	LB	6-2	229	2	2-27-64	Fresno State	11
53	Griggs, Anthony	LB	6-3	230	7	2-12-60	Ohio State	12
27	†Gross, Al	S	6-3	195	6	1- 4-61	Arizona	6
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-4	260	13	12-15-52	Maryland-Eastern Shore	14
65	†Haley, Darryl	T/G	6-4	265	6	2-16-61	Utah	9
23	†Harper, Mark	CB	5-9	174	3	11- 5-61	Alcorn State	12
38	Horn, Alvin	S	5-11	185	2	3- 7-65	Nevada-Las Vegas	3
8	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	189	2	11-26-64	Washington	10
51	†Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-1	225	8	2- 3-59	Louisville	12
11	†Johnson, Lee	P	6-2	198	4	11-27-61	Brigham Young	*12
59	†Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	228	3	11-26-62	Virginia Tech	11
95	Jones, Marlon	DE	6-4	260	2	7- 1-64	Central State, Ohio	1
54	Junkin, Mike	LB	6-3	238	2	11-21-64	Duke	4
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	210	4	11-25-63	Miami (Fla.)	12
88	Langhorne, Reggie	WR	6-2	195	4	4- 7-63	Elizabeth City State	12
34	Mack, Kevin	RB	6-0	225	4	8- 9-62	Clemson	12
42	Manoa, Tim	RB	6-1	227	2	9- 9-64	Penn State	12
57	†Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	235	11	3-15-56	Southern California	12
89	McNeil, Gerald	WR/KR	5-7	147	3	3-27-62	Baylor	12
52	†Miller, Nick	LB	6-2	238	2	10-26-63	Arkansas	9
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5-9	180	5	1- 1-60	Louisville	12
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	11	3-16-56	Alabama	13
10	Pagel, Mike	QB	6-2	206	7	9-13-60	Arizona State	4
72	†Puzzuoli, Dave	NT	6-3	260	6	1-12-61	Pittsburgh	12
73	Rakoczy, Gregg	T	6-6	290	2	5-18-65	Miami (Fla.)	12
63	Risien, Cody	T	6-7	280	9	3-22-57	Texas A&M	13
37	†Rockins, Chris	S	6-0	195	5	5-18-62	Oklahoma State	12
98	Rusinek, Mike	NT	6-3	250	2	5- 1-63	California	3
50	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	216	11	2-14-56	Georgia Tech	11
99	Sims, Darryl	DE	6-3	282	4	7-23-61	Wisconsin	10
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-0	170	3	10-19-64	San Diego State	12
38	Swann, George	RB	5-10	205	2	2-15-64	Miami, Ohio	1
50	Teifke, Mike	C	6-4	255	2	12-29-63	Akron	3
81	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-5	245	2	2-12-64	UCLA	11
87	Tucker, Travis	TE	6-3	240	4	9-19-63	So. Connecticut State	4
5	Watson, Louis	WR	5-11	173	1	1-11-63	Mississippi Valley State	2
6	Watson, Remi	WR	6-0	174	1	8-11-64	Bethune-Cookman	1
85	Weathers, Clarence	WR	5-9	170	6	1-10-62	Delaware State	12
70	Williams, Larry	G	6-5	290	3	7- 3-63	Notre Dame	12
64	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	290	2	1-23-64	Western Illinois	12
22	†Wright, Felix	S	6-2	190	4	6-22-59	Drake	12
83	Young, Glen	WR/KR	6-2	205	5	10-11-60	Mississippi State	10

*T. Baker missed '87 season due to injury; Dressel played 1 game with 49ers and inactive for 3 games with Browns in '87; L. Johnson played 9 games with Oilers, inactive for 1 game with Bills and played 3 games with Browns in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Bengals plan to turn back the clock in effort to get over the hump

By MIKE DODD
Cincinnati Enquirer

The Cincinnati Bengals are still trying to work the clock.

General Manager Paul Brown and sons Mike and Pete are trying to set the time machine back to the 10-6 season of 1986, the one that preceded the 4-11 strike-torn debacle of '87. Or at least back as far as the fourth quarter of the San Francisco game last September.

The Bengals were six seconds away from being 2-0 when Coach Sam Wyche gave up the ball on downs to the 49ers, allowing Joe Montana to hit Jerry Rice for a 25-yard game-winning touchdown on the final play. That loss, and subsequent discord from the strike, shattered the club. The Bengals managed to beat only lowly Atlanta and Kansas City in their 10 post-strike games.

Surprisingly, Brown retained Wyche and his entire staff, declaring that the '87 season was an aberration. So the Bengals will enter the '88 season with essentially the same cast, feeling the talent to win is on hand.

The challenge for Wyche will be to turn impressive statistics into the only stat that counts—wins. Last year, Cincinnati finished fifth in the NFL in yards gained (second if you disregard the replacement games), but only 20th in points scored. Defensively, the Bengals improved to eighth in yards against, but only four teams gave up more points.

After four years of offensive innovations, Wyche will scale it down and try to recapture the tough inside running game they had two years ago to set up Boomer Esiason's passing.

This year, the big man could be a new man. Second-round draft choice Ickey Woods (Nevada-Las Vegas) is expected to displace Larry Kinnebrew at fullback following the six-year veteran's lackluster season running (570 yards) and picking up the blitz.

James Brooks, now 29 and coming off an ankle injury, may be more effective if he's not the featured back in the running attack. Ideally, Brooks, who had a career-low 290 yards rushing in 1987, should carry the ball around eight to 10 times a game and catch it out of the backfield an equal number.

In addition to Wyche, the one man who would most like to forget last season is Esiason. The club's union representative was outspoken during the strike and became a lightning rod for the fans' disaffection after it.

And Esiason's on-field performance fizzled more than it sizzled. He threw a career-high 19 interceptions in 12 games and completed a career-low (as a starter) 54.5 percent of his passes. He threw just 16 touchdown passes after throwing 24 the



Cincinnati defensive lineman Jason Buck has been told that the time has come for him to produce.

year before.

But much of it wasn't Esiason's fault. He was without two key receivers most of the second half of the season (Brooks and Cris Collinsworth), was forced to play catch-up too often and didn't receive the protection of past years.

Five of his interceptions came on last-gasp drives, three of them on the last play or two of the game. Esiason didn't make the big plays at the end of games he had in his first two years as a starter and admitted in the off-season that he tried to wear too many hats. This year, he says, will be different.

The receiving corps, with Eddie Brown and a healthy and stronger Collinsworth (thanks to an off-season weight program), should again rank among the best in the league.

The offensive line, which didn't start the same five players two weeks in a row until December, should be able to rebound from the inconsistency caused by injuries a year ago. Pro Bowl tackle Anthony Munoz underwent arthroscopic shoulder surgery for an injury that plagued him the entire second half of last year.

The major concern, however, is center

Dave Rimington, who has missed four games each of the last two years and was ineffective after returning last year. Backup Dave Douglas and sixth-round draft choice Paul Jetton (Texas) will vie for the spot if Rimington goes down again.

Defensively, it's time for the Bengals' young players to start producing. Counting this spring's draft, no team in the NFL has invested more high draft choices on defense the last four years than Cincinnati. Since 1985, the Bengals have picked 14 defensive players in the first three rounds. The returns have been promising but not fruitful, and Wyche's patience is wearing thin.

"The guys we've taken the last couple of years, it's their time," he said. "I've talked to Jason Buck (the team's 1987 No. 1 pick) and told him in no uncertain terms we were disappointed in last year. I think we have a healthy Joe Kelly (1986's No. 1) after the off-season (shoulder) surgery. It looks like it's well mended."

Buck didn't sign until after Labor Day, then went on strike two weeks later and saw his entire rookie season washed out (four tackles, two sacks). He's up to 265 pounds now, and should benefit from his first training camp. The coaches hope to move him around as a pass rusher—sometimes up, sometimes down—like they did with Ross Browner early in his career.

The defense showed marked improvement last year, going from 20th overall in '86 to eighth, but it was next-to-last in the league with only 26 takeaways.

The Bengals defense has undergone drastic makeover the last two years and more changes are in store. First-round draft pick Rickey Dixon (Oklahoma) is expected to start at the cornerback spot held for years by Louis Breeden, who has since been released. If Dixon can't do the job, second-year speedster Eric Thomas, who had problems as a rookie, will try to step in. Lewis Billups seems set at the other corner despite a so-so sophomore campaign.

Strong safety David Fulcher is the closest thing to a big-play man on the defense, and the coaching staff likely will resist the temptation to move him to free safety.

The linebacking and defensive line will also undergo changes. Personnel could be shuffled and the coaches hope to use the 4-3 alignment more than in the past.

Kelly is an active, big-hitting inside linebacker when he's healthy, but he's only 225 pounds, takes a heavy pounding and his performance dropped significantly after a shoulder/neck injury flared up.

If third-round draft pick Kevin Walker (Maryland) can be the run stuffer they're seeking inside, Kelly could ease into the right outside spot as a blitzer, a position Reggie Williams has held for 12 years. Williams played steadily last year, leading the team in sacks with six, but he'll be 34

in September.

The line is loaded with high draft choices, but the one consistent performer—nose tackle Tim Krumrie—was a 10th-round draft pick in 1983. Krumrie was a Pro Bowl alternate last year. Eddie Edwards, who is entering his 12th season with the Bengals, is taking a pay cut to return. He will share left end duties with Skip McClendon, a third-round pick in '87. On the right side, Jim Skow will start and will be spelled on occasion by Buck—if he plays better than he did as a rookie.

Special teams cost the Bengals a couple of games last year and will receive its annual patch-up job. Placekicker Jim Breech, short on kickoffs and 24 of 30 on field-goal attempts, will get training camp competition from 11th-round choice Paul Hickert of Murray State. Breech's strong suit is his accuracy—he hit 18 of 19 attempts inside the 40-yard line a year ago.

Scott Fulhage solved the punting problems (41.7-yard average), but the Bengals are still looking for a big-play return man. No Bengal has returned a punt or a kickoff for a touchdown since 1976, a span that includes 1,155 straight kicks. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—PHOENIX	1:00
Sept. 11—at Philadelphia	4:00
Sept. 18—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sept. 25—CLEVELAND	1:00
Oct. 2—at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
Oct. 9—NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Oct. 16—at New England	1:00
Oct. 23—HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 30—at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 6—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 13—at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 20—at Dallas	12:00
Nov. 27—BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 4—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Dec. 11—at Houston	12:00
Dec. 17—WASHINGTON (Sat.)	12:30

1987 RESULTS—(4-11)

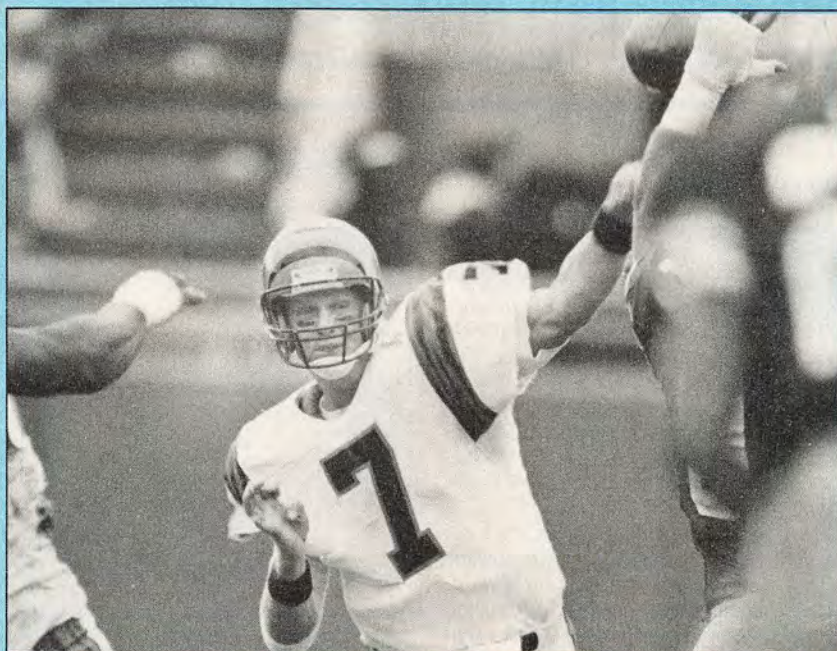
Bengals	Opp.	Att.
23 Indianapolis	21 (A)	59,387
26 San Francisco	27 (H)	53,490
L.A. Rams	10 (H)	18,074
9 San Diego	10 (A)	31,739
17 Seattle	34 (H)	40,170
0 Cleveland	23 (A)	53,692
20 Pittsburgh	31 (H)	52,700
29 Houston	20 (H)	53,847
14 Miami	10 (A)	25,758
16 Atlanta	30 (H)	52,795
16 Pittsburgh	27 (A)	41,135
20 New York Jets	27 (H)	46,489
30 Kansas City (OT)	38 (A)	77,331
24 Cleveland	41 (H)	43,424
24 New Orleans	21 (A)	49,275

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. DIXON, Ricky	DB	Oklahoma
2. WOODS, Ickey	RB	Nev.-Las Vegas
3. WALKER, Kevin	LB	Maryland
4. GRANT, David	NT	West Virginia
5. WESTER, Herb	T	Iowa
6. JETTON, Paul	G	Texas
7. ROMER, Rich	LB	Union, N.Y.
8. MAXEY, Curtis	NT	Grambling
9. WELLS, Brandy	DB	Notre Dame
10. DILLAHUNT, Ellis	DB	East Carolina
11. HICKERT, Paul	K	Murray State
12. PARKER, Carl	WR	Vanderbilt



Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
61	Aronson, Doug	G	6-3	290	2	8-14-64	San Diego State	2
35	Barber, Chris	S	6-0	187	2	1-15-64	North Carolina A&T	3
53	Barker, Leo	LB	6-2	227	5	11- 7-59	New Mexico State	12
24	Billups, Lewis	CB	5-11	190	3	10-10-63	North Alabama	11
74	Blados, Brian	G	6-5	295	5	1-11-62	North Carolina	11
55	†Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	5	6-17-60	Illinois	12
3	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	161	10	4-11-56	California	12
21	Brooks, James	RB	5-10	182	8	12-28-58	Auburn	9
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	4	12-17-62	Miami (Fla.)	12
99	Buck, Jason	DE	6-5	264	2	7-27-63	Brigham Young	12
27	†Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	195	3	5-20-62	South Carolina	12
80	Collinsworth, Cris	WR	6-6	192	8	1-27-59	Florida	8
93	†DeAyala, Kiki	LB	6-1	225	3	10-23-61	Texas	12
67	Douglas, David	T	6-4	280	3	3-20-63	Tennessee	12
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	256	12	4-25-54	Miami (Fla.)	14
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-4	220	5	4-17-61	Maryland	12
33	†Fulcher, David	S	6-3	228	3	9-28-64	Arizona State	11
17	Fulhage, Scott	P	5-11	191	2	11-17-61	Kansas State	11
	Goode, John	TE	6-2	243	3	11- 5-62	Youngstown State	*0
71	Hammerstein, Mike	DE	6-4	270	3	3-29-63	Michigan	11
89	†Hillary, Ira	WR	5-11	190	2	11-13-62	South Carolina	11
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	7	4-20-60	Tulane	12
20	Horton, Ray	CB	5-11	190	6	4-12-60	Washington	12
92	Inglis, Tim	LB	6-3	232	2	3-10-64	Toledo	8
37	†Jackson, Robert	S	5-10	186	7	10-10-58	Central Michigan	12
36	†Jennings, Stanford	RB	6-1	205	5	3-12-62	Furman	12
30	Johnson, Bill	RB	6-2	230	4	10-31-60	Arkansas State	11
84	Kattus, Eric	TE	6-5	235	3	3- 4-63	Michigan	11
58	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	227	3	12-11-64	Washington	10
90	King, Emanuel	LB	6-4	251	4	8-15-63	Alabama	12
28	†Kinnebrew, Larry	RB	6-1	258	6	6-11-59	Tennessee State	11
64	Kozerski, Bruce	G	6-4	275	5	4- 2-62	Holy Cross	8
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	262	6	5-20-60	Wisconsin	12
52	Manos, Sam	C	6-3	265	2	10- 2-63	Marshall	3
88	†Martin, Mike	WR	5-10	186	6	11-18-60	Illinois	12
72	McClendon, Skip	DE	6-6	270	2	4- 9-64	Arizona State	12
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	175	3	8- 7-64	Tennessee	11
47	Meehan, Greg	WR	6-0	191	2	4-27-63	Bowling Green	3
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	275	10	5-12-56	UCLA	10
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	9	8-19-58	Southern California	11
12	†Norseth, Mike	QB	6-2	200	2	8-22-64	Kansas	*0
75	Reimers, Bruce	T	6-7	280	5	9-18-60	Iowa State	10
46	Rice, Dan	RB	6-1	241	2	11- 9-63	Michigan	3
87	Riggs, Jim	TE	6-5	245	2	9-29-63	Clemson	9
50	†Rimington, Dave	C	6-3	288	6	5-22-60	Nebraska	8
15	Schonert, Turk	QB	6-1	196	9	1-15-57	Stanford	11
70	Skow, Jim	DE	6-3	250	3	6-29-63	Nebraska	12
25	Smith, Daryl	CB	5-9	185	2	5- 8-63	North Alabama	3
22	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	175	2	9-11-64	Tulane	12
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-6	290	4	6-18-63	Texas Tech	12
51	White, Leon	LB	6-2	236	3	10- 4-63	Brigham Young	12
41	Wilcotts, Solomon	CB	5-11	180	2	10- 9-64	Colorado	12
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-0	228	13	9-19-54	Dartmouth	15
49	Wilson, Stanley	RB	5-10	210	4	8-23-61	Oklahoma	*0
57	Wright, Dana	RB	6-1	219	2	6- 2-63	Findlay College	5
91	Zander, Carl	LB	6-2	235	4	3-23-63	Tennessee	12

*Goode last active with Eagles in '85; Norseth active for 3 games with Bengals in '87, but did not play; Wilson missed '87 season due to suspension.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

NFL's bad boys scoff at criticism, serve notice they're a team on the rise

By JOHN McCLAIN
Houston Chronicle

Met the Houston Oilers, the National Football League's most despised team. If the NFL was the Wild West, the Oilers' team picture would be nailed on every fence post from coast to coast.

Cheap-shot artists or merely aggressive, hard-hitting gang tacklers? The debate raged through a bittersweet 9-6 season that ended in the second round of the playoffs.

The Oilers in the playoffs? Yes, it's true. The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight for six consecutive seasons earned a wild-card berth and beat Seattle, 23-20, in the first round before watching a dream season explode in a 34-10 nightmare at Denver.

No matter which side of the NFL law the Oilers stood, one thing was clear: They were no longer a laughingstock to be bullied around. The Oilers created controversy on and off the field in 1987, but they also managed to escape the AFC Central basement for the first time in five years. And they made the playoffs for the first time since 1980. They won more than five games for the first time since 1981 and ruffled a few feathers along the way.

The Oilers and their coach, Jerry Glanville, earned the wrath of several NFL coaches, primarily Pittsburgh's Chuck Noll, who orchestrated a one-man crusade to clean up the Oilers' act.

Two times during the season and even at the owners' meeting in March, Noll accused Glanville of coaching his players to take cheap shots. Noll's charges echoed through such cities as New Orleans, Indianapolis, San Francisco and Cincinnati, where similar but less-volatile charges were repeated.

"It's ridiculous," Glanville said. "Our philosophy's no different from anybody else. I'd like to bury this. I'm tired of commenting on it."

Glanville would prefer to comment on the Oilers' record and their prospects for 1988, about how they survived enough controversy last season to last a decade. Take a look at the obstacles the Oilers were forced to overcome:

- Dissatisfied with his lease at the Astrodome, Owner Bud Adams threatened to move the franchise to Jacksonville. The Oilers finally signed a new lease that reduced their payment by \$1 million a year and included an Astrodome expansion of 10,000 seats and 72 new luxury boxes.

- Fullback Alonzo Highsmith, the No. 1 draft choice, held out until November. He sued the Oilers and the NFL, then signed a \$2.5-million contract and wasn't a factor until the last three games.

- Veteran guard Bruce Matthews also held out and filed a lawsuit of his own be-



Though Mike Rozier played hurt most of last season, he still rushed for 957 yards.

fore giving in and signing a new contract after the strike.

Glanville wasted no time in preparing for the '88 season. He fired assistants Tom Bettis (defensive backs), Dick Jamieson (running backs) and Miller McCalmon (special teams). He replaced them with three college coaches with no NFL experience.

The Oilers had two glaring weaknesses last season and General Manager Ladd Herzog wasted no time in correcting them. He went the trade route to get a pass rusher to beef up an anemic defensive line and used the draft to find a new punter. Herzog dealt a No. 1 draft choice—the ninth pick in the first round—to the Raiders for defensive end Sean Jones and drafted Michigan State punter Greg Montgomery on the third round.

"We had to have a good pass rusher, and Jones is one of the best," Glanville says. "He's also good against the run." Jones had six sacks for the Raiders last year after leading the AFC with 15.5 sacks in 1986.

The Oilers are always full of surprises at draft time and they stunned everyone when they used their second No. 1 pick on Michigan State halfback Lorenzo White, even though they are well-stocked in the backfield. White rushed for 1,572 yards

last season with the Spartans but it remains to be seen exactly where he fits into a crowded Houston backfield.

In fact, the Oilers' offense, which ranked eighth in the league, doesn't need much help as long as the key players stay healthy.

And no one is more key than quarterback Warren Moon, who emerged as the team leader and enjoyed his best season in 1987. Moon sparked three come-from-behind rallies in the fourth quarter and finished with 21 touchdown passes, the most by an Oiler quarterback since George Blanda in 1963.

Moon is fortunate to have two of the best receivers in the league. Drew Hill (49 receptions for 989 yards) and Ernest Givins (53 for 933) combined for 1,922 receiving yards, the highest for any two-some in the league. Over the last three seasons, Hill has 3,270 yards, second in the league behind San Francisco's Jerry Rice.

The Oiler running backs are no slouches, either. Mike Rozier played hurt most of the time and still had his best season with 957 yards and a trip to the Pro Bowl.

Highsmith, a 242-pound fullback, rushed for only 106 yards in a disappointing rookie year and underwent arthroscopic surgery twice on his left knee in the off-season. But he's healthy now and dedicated to making up for lost time.

A restructured offensive line, led by guards Mike Munchak and Bruce Matthews, made things much easier for Moon and the running backs. Jay Pennison started all 12 non-strike games at center and Dean Steinkuhler and Bruce Davis are the tackles.

"We were able to do a lot of things offensively because of how much our line improved," Glanville says. "The linemen played so much better than they had in the past."

There is less concern about the offense than the defense, which ranked 17th in the league against the run, the pass and overall. The Oilers would like to escape their reputation as a cheap-shot defense, but if they don't, they're not going to fret over it.

"The bottom line is that we know we're not a dirty team," cornerback Patrick Allen said. "We swarm to the ball, gang tackle and hit from whistle to whistle. All that talk doesn't bother us, and it doesn't affect the way we play."

The Oiler secondary of Allen and Steve Brown on the corners and Keith Bostic and Jeff Donaldson at safety finally started getting some recognition as one of the best in the league. Bostic earned his first trip to the Pro Bowl.

Like the defensive backs, the linebackers are active and aggressive. Al Smith performed well as a rookie at one inside spot opposite John Grimsley and was the Oilers' leading tackler. Robert

Lyles and Johnny Meads on the outside are veteran starters who are small but quick and consistent.

If Jones helps the pass rush, the defensive line will be much more effective. Solid against the run, the linemen didn't do a good job of getting the quarterback. End Ray Childress led the team with six sacks.

With the exception of kicker Tony Zendejas, who is accurate and consistent, the Oilers are hoping to improve their special teams.

"We know hard work pays off in wins," Glanville said. "We're taking the same approach this season. If we get kicked in the eye, we come back that much stronger the next week. The most important game of our lives is always the one that's coming up." ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Indianapolis	3:00
Sept. 11—LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	3:00
Sept. 18—at New York Jets	1:00
Sept. 25—NEW ENGLAND	12:00
Oct. 2—at Philadelphia	1:00
Oct. 9—KANSAS CITY	12:00
Oct. 16—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 23—at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 30—WASHINGTON	7:00
Nov. 7—CLEVELAND (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 13—at Seattle	1:00
Nov. 20—PHOENIX	12:00
Nov. 24—at Dallas (Thanksgiving)	3:00
Dec. 4—PITTSBURGH	7:00
Dec. 11—CINCINNATI	12:00
Dec. 18—at Cleveland	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(10-7)

Oilers	Opp.	Att.
20 L.A. Rams	16 (H)	33,186
30 Buffalo	34 (A)	56,534
L.A. Raiders*	(H)	
40 Denver	10 (A)	38,494
15 Cleveland	10 (A)	38,927
7 New England	21 (H)	26,294
37 Atlanta	33 (H)	29,062
31 Cincinnati	29 (A)	52,700
20 San Francisco	27 (A)	59,740
23 Pittsburgh	3 (A)	56,177
7 Cleveland	40 (H)	51,161
27 Indianapolis	51 (A)	54,999
33 San Diego	18 (H)	31,714
10 New Orleans	24 (A)	68,257
24 Pittsburgh	16 (H)	38,683
21 Cincinnati	17 (H)	49,275

AFC WILD-CARD GAME

23 Seattle (OT)	20 (H)	49,622
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AFC SEMIFINAL GAME

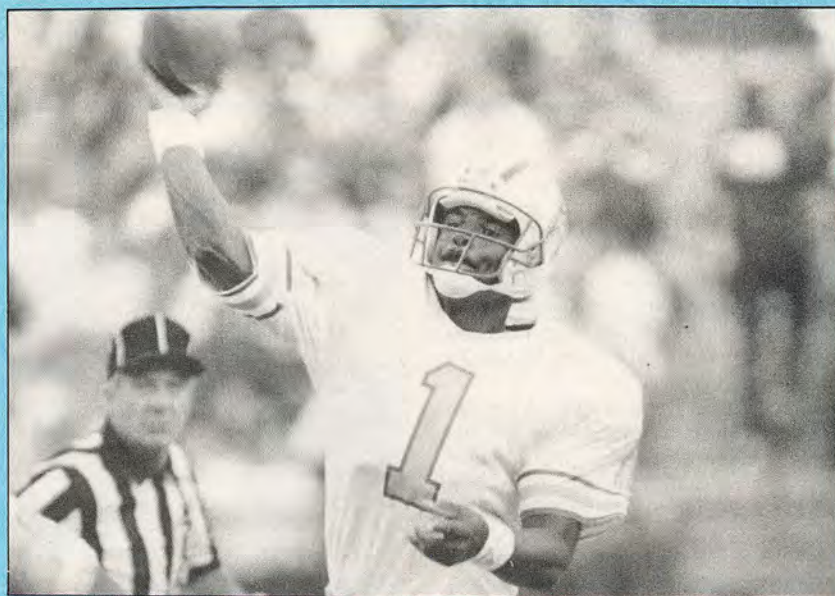
10 Denver	34 (A)	75,968
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. WHITE, Lorenzo	RB	Michigan State
2. JONES, Quintin	DB	Pittsburgh
3. MONTGOMERY, Greg	P	Michigan State
3. Choice to N.Y. Jets		from San Diego
4. Choice to San Francisco		through L.A. Raiders
5. DISHMAN, Cris	DB	Purdue
5. Choice to San Diego		from San Diego
6. VERHULST, Chris	TE	Chico State
6. CRAIN, Kurt	LB	Auburn
7. EATON, Tracey	DB	Portland State
7. VIAENE, Dave	C	Minn.-Duluth
9. SPRADLIN, David	LB	Texas Christian
10. JOHNSON, Marco	WR	Hawaii
11. FRANKLIN, Jethro	DE	Fresno State
12. BRANTLEY, John	LB	Georgia



Houston Oilers quarterback Warren Moon.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
29	†Allen, Patrick	CB	5-10	180	5	8-26-61	Utah State	11
36	Birdsong, Craig	S	6-2	217	2	8-16-64	North Texas State	3
25	Bostic, Keith	S	6-1	223	6	1-17-61	Michigan	12
	Brown, Sonny	S	6-2	200	1	11-12-63	Oklahoma	2
24	†Brown, Steve	CB	5-11	187	6	3-20-60	Oregon	10
38	Bryant, Domingo	S	6-3	175	2	12- 8-63	Texas A&M	13
71	Byrd, Richard	DE	6-4	265	4	3-20-62	Southern Mississippi	12
90	Caston, Toby	LB	6-1	235	2	7-17-65	Louisiana State	6
79	Childress, Ray	DE	6-6	276	4	10-20-62	Texas A&M	13
	Clinton, Charles	CB	5-8	170	1	1-26-62	San Jose State	2
98	†Cooks, Rayford	DE	6-3	245	2	8-25-62	North Texas State	10
	Darrington, Chris	WR	5-10	180	2	7-13-64	Weber State	3
77	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	280	10	6-21-56	UCLA	*11
73	Davis, John	T/G	6-4	304	2	8-22-65	Georgia Tech	6
31	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-0	194	5	4-19-62	Colorado	12
82	Drewrey, Willie	WR/KR	5-7	164	4	4-28-63	West Virginia	12
80	Duncan, Curtis	WR/KR	5-11	184	2	1-26-65	Northwestern	10
21	†Eason, Bo	S	6-2	205	5	3-10-61	California-Davis	3
51	†Fairs, Eric	LB	6-3	238	3	2-17-64	Memphis State	12
95	†Fuller, William	DE	6-3	260	3	3- 8-62	North Carolina	12
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	172	3	9- 3-64	Louisville	12
8	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	200	7	1-25-57	Eastern Illinois	*9
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	236	5	2-25-62	Kentucky	12
83	Harris, Leonard	WR	5-8	165	3	11-27-60	Texas Tech	3
32	Highsmith, Alonzo	RB	6-1	235	2	2-26-65	Miami (Fla.)	8
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	170	9	2- 5-56	Georgia Tech	12
49	James, Arrike	TE	6-4	238	2	12-31-64	Delta State	3
84	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	198	2	12-12-64	North Carolina State	9
22	†Johnson, Kenny	S	5-10	175	9	1- 7-58	Mississippi State	12
23	Johnson, Richard	CB	6-1	190	4	9-16-63	Wisconsin	5
57	Johnson, Walter	LB	6-0	241	2	11-13-63	Louisiana Tech	10
	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	265	5	12-19-62	Northeastern	*12
93	Lyles, Robert	LB	6-1	223	5	3-21-61	Texas Christian	12
78	Mags, Don	T/G	6-5	277	2	11- 1-61	Tulane	*0
94	Martin, Charles	NT	6-4	280	5	8-31-59	Livingston	*14
74	Matthews, Bruce	T/G	6-5	280	6	8- 8-61	Southern California	8
26	†McMillan, Audrey	CB	6-0	190	4	8-13-62	Houston	12
91	†Meads, Johnny	LB	6-2	230	5	6-25-61	Nicholls State	12
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	210	5	11-18-56	Washington	12
63	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	280	7	3- 5-60	Penn State	12
89	Parks, Jeff	TE	6-4	240	3	9-14-64	Auburn	7
10	Pease, Brent	QB	6-2	200	2	10- 8-64	Montana	6
52	†Pennison, Jay	C	6-1	275	3	9- 9-61	Nicholls State	12
	Petersmark, Brett	G	6-3	280	2	3- 5-64	Eastern Michigan	3
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	185	3	1-25-64	Notre Dame	8
30	Rozier, Mike	RB	5-10	211	4	3- 1-61	Nebraska	11
53	Seale, Eugene	LB	5-10	250	2	6- 3-64	Lamar	9
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	230	2	11-26-64	Utah State	12
99	†Smith, Doug	NT	6-5	282	4	6-13-60	Auburn	14
70	†Steinkuhler, Dean	T/G	6-3	278	5	1-27-61	Nebraska	11
33	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	2	4-21-64	Oklahoma	5
45	Valentine, Ira	RB	6-0	212	2	6- 4-63	Texas A&M	7
35	Wallace, Ray	RB	6-0	220	3	12- 3-63	Purdue	12
69	Williams, Doug	T/G	6-5	288	3	10- 1-62	Texas A&M	8
87	†Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	6	2-25-60	Nebraska	12
	Young, Almon	G	6-3	290	2	7- 3-62	Bethune-Cookman	3
7	†Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	4	5-15-60	Nevada-Reno	13

*B. Davis played 4 games with Raiders, 7 with Oilers in '87; Gossett played 5 games with Browns, 4 with Oilers in '87; Jones played 12 games with Raiders in '87; Mags active for 1 game with Oilers in '87, but did not play; Martin played 2 games with Packers, 12 with Oilers in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Steelers need a big offensive boost if they want to return to glory days

By STEVE HUBBARD
Pittsburgh Press

As the Pittsburgh Steelers prepare for their ninth National Football League season since their last Super Bowl appearance (yes, it's been nearly a decade), they won't have Mark Malone to kick around anymore.

Malone, who was never able to get the Three Rivers Stadium vultures off his back—let alone the Steelers into a Super Bowl—was mercifully dispatched to San Diego in April for an eighth-round draft choice.

The critics say that without Malone and his 19 interceptions and league-worst 46.7 passing rating, the 1987 Steelers would not have finished with an 8-7 record and out of the playoffs.

With Malone misfiring, the Steelers' regulars were next-to-last in total yards and interceptions, dead last in average gain per play and per pass, passing yards per game and pass completion percentage.

In the 12 non-strike games, the offense scored a league-low 14 touchdowns, and never more than two in a game. By contrast, the Steeler replacement team scored 10 in three games and the defense scored a league-high seven touchdowns (five on interceptions), scoring or setting up 143 of the team's 285 points.

The burden of proof this season falls on Todd Blackledge, a bust in five seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs but Malone's likely successor. If Blackledge, a former Penn State All-America, leads the Steelers to their first playoff appearance since 1984, Malone's detractors will be proven right in their contention that lousy quarterbacking has kept Pittsburgh out of postseason play in recent years. But if Blackledge, who has thrown 26 touchdown passes and 32 interceptions in 40 NFL games, doesn't deliver, the Steelers are in big trouble.

Because other than move out one suspect quarterback for another, Pittsburgh did virtually nothing in the off-season to upgrade a terrible offense.

Steelers personnel director Dick Haley said the team needed help at wide receiver and running back and called them the draft's deepest, strongest positions. Then Coach Chuck Noll, who makes the selections after input from the scouts and coaches, managed to ignore those two huge needs the first day of the draft.

The Steelers instead drafted a defensive end in the first round, Aaron Jones, who runs as fast as the two runners they later chose, Warren Williams and Gordie Lockbaum. They chose two centers, Dermontti Dawson and Chuck Lanza, who run as fast as the only wide receiver they selected, Marc Zeno.

What the Steelers' offense needs most



If wide receiver Louis Lipps can stay healthy, the Steelers will have their much-needed long threat.

of all is a healthy Louis Lipps, who must bounce back from two years of hamstring pulls and assorted woes. Lipps had 3,411 all-purpose yards, 26 touchdowns and two Pro Bowl appearances his first two seasons. He's totaled 813, three and zero the past two years.

The retirement of John Stallworth after 14 seasons and the release of Calvin Sweeney leaves a huge hole at the other wide receiver spot. It will likely be filled by the lanky Weegie Thompson, disappointing 1987 third-round pick Charles Lockett or replacement players Joey Clinkscales, Lyneal Alston or Zeno.

The returning wide receivers caught just 41 passes for two touchdowns in the 12 non-strike games. The starting tight end, Preston Gothard, caught two passes before knee surgery and had 29 catches in three seasons.

They will be attempting to catch passes from either Blackledge or 1986 third-round choice Bubby Brister, whose statistics are as unimpressive as Blackledge's.

Brister has connected on 34.7 percent of 72 passes for 311 yards, no touchdowns and five interceptions.

"There's a lot of ifs every season," offensive coordinator Tom Moore said. "But I think we're going to have some wide receivers who can go deep. One of Bubby's and Todd's strengths is throwing the ball deep."

The inability of the Steelers to throw long last season was evident by the fact that they completed just five passes of 30 or more yards in the 12 non-strike games.

The backfield will change little, with Frank Pollard, Earnest Jackson and Walter Abercrombie (a combined 1,691 yards rushing in '87) again carrying the load. They are steady—only eight lost fumbles among them last year—but are not breakaway threats, which is why the Steelers were disappointed when running backs Gaston Green and John Stephens were drafted before their turn in the first round.

The Steelers were also interested in Dallas' Tony Dorsett—a former University of Pittsburgh star—but quickly backed off when the price proved prohibitive.

"We can't afford it," said Noll, whose offer of veteran cornerback Dwayne Woodruff was rejected by the Cowboys. "It's 50 years of compensation for two years of play."

And so Noll's theme switched from speed to force. He said physical football was the "common thread" in his draft, just as it had been in 1987, when intimidating rookies Delton Hall, Thomas Everett and Rod Woodson turned the secondary from a team weakness into a strength.

"That was a start," Noll said. "We'd like to continue it and carry it on through in all areas. If we're going to win, we've got to be physical."

"A couple of years ago (when they started 1-6 and finished 6-10), it was pushed upon us pretty good. We weren't as physical as we have to be. Our commitment has to be to basic football, because that's what wins for you."

"I'm not saying we don't need (skill) help. I wouldn't disagree with that at all. But if you have the ability to dominate and be physical (up front), then the skill positions pay off."

Noll believes you win with a tough, mistake-free offense and a dominating defense. Noll thinks he might have that if Jones—a personal favorite of defensive line coach Joe Greene—is the pass rusher they so desperately lack.

Last year's defense was fourth in the league against the run. But it couldn't get pressure on the passer—only Atlanta and Miami had fewer sacks than the Steelers' 26. The Steelers' top sack man on the line, Keith Gary, had only four. Pittsburgh was last in completion percentage allowed and next-to-last in gain per pass.

"Yards per pass is the big stat," defensive coordinator Tony Dungy said. "That has to come down, and the way to get that down is pressure, with more sacks and less time to throw downfield."

"If (Jones) is what we think he is, obviously he should make us a lot better. If you can get a pass rush without blitzing, it makes the whole defense better."

The defense behind the line should be a

strong suit. The starting linebacking unit of Mike Merriweather, Robin Cole, David Little and Bryan Hinkle is solid and three of the four backfield positions are set. Last year's top rookie, Hall, and Woodruff will be the cornerbacks and Everett the starting free safety. Long-time strong safety Donnie Shell has retired, however, and his spot will be filled by Cornell Gowdy or Lupe Sanchez.

Another area that should not concern the coaching staff is the kicking game. Placekicker Gary Anderson and punter Harry Newsome both enjoyed fine seasons. Anderson lost his status as the NFL's all-time field goal accuracy leader to New Orleans' Morten Andersen last year, but nonetheless connected on 22 of 27 attempts (82 percent). Anderson connected on 13 of 14 attempts under 40 yards and was two of two on attempts over 50 yards.

Newsome was second in the AFC with a 41.8-yard punting average. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—DALLAS.....	1:00
Sept. 11—at Washington.....	1:00
Sept. 18—CINCINNATI.....	1:00
Sept. 25—at Buffalo.....	1:00
Oct. 2—CLEVELAND.....	1:00
Oct. 9—at Phoenix.....	1:00
Oct. 16—HOUSTON.....	1:00
Oct. 23—DENVER.....	1:00
Oct. 30—at New York Jets.....	1:00
Nov. 6—at Cincinnati.....	1:00
Nov. 13—PHILADELPHIA.....	1:00
Nov. 20—at Cleveland.....	1:00
Nov. 27—KANSAS CITY.....	1:00
Dec. 4—at Houston.....	7:00
Dec. 11—at San Diego.....	1:00
Dec. 18—MIAMI.....	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(8-7)

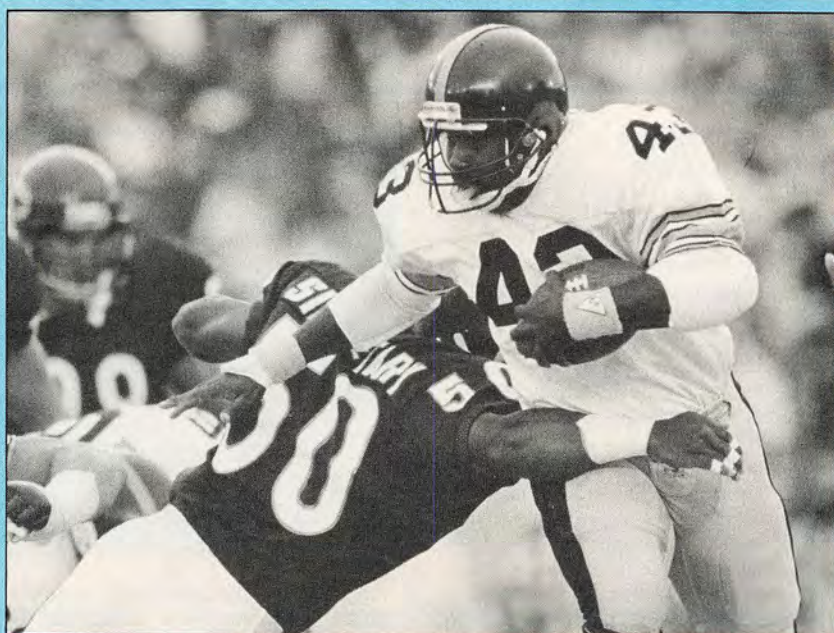
Steelers	Opp.	Att.
30 San Francisco.....	17 (H)	55,735
10 Cleveland.....	34 (A)	79,543
New York Jets®.....	(H)	
28 Atlanta.....	12 (A)	16,667
21 L.A. Rams.....	31 (A)	20,218
21 Indianapolis.....	7 (H)	34,627
23 Cincinnati.....	20 (H)	53,692
24 Miami.....	35 (A)	52,578
17 Kansas City.....	16 (A)	45,249
3 Houston.....	23 (H)	56,177
30 Cincinnati.....	16 (A)	52,795
16 New Orleans.....	20 (H)	47,896
13 Seattle.....	9 (H)	48,881
20 San Diego.....	16 (A)	51,605
16 Houston.....	24 (A)	38,683
13 Cleveland.....	19 (H)	56,394

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. JONES, Aaron	DE	East. Kentucky
2. DAWSON, Dermontti	G	Kentucky
3. LANZA, Chuck	C	Notre Dame
4. Choice to Kansas City		
5. JORDAN, Darin	LB	Northeastern
from Phoenix		
5. REESE, Jerry	NT	Kentucky
6. WILLIAMS, Warren	RB	Miami (Fla.)
7. ZENO, Marc	WR	Tulane
8. NICHOLS, Mark	NT	Michigan State
8. HINNANT, Mike	TE	Temple
from San Diego		
9. LOCKBAUM, Gordie	RB	Holy Cross
10. JACKSON, John	T	East. Kentucky
from Tampa Bay		
10. Choice to Denver		
11. DAWSON, Bobby	DB	Illinois
12. EARLE, James	LB	Clemson



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Earnest Jackson.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
34	Abercrombie, Walter	RB	6-0	210	7	9-26-59	Baylor	12
81	Alston, Lyneal	WR	6-1	205	2	7-23-64	Southern Mississippi	3
1	Anderson, Gary	K	5-11	170	7	7-16-59	Syracuse	12
72	†Aydelette, Buddy	T/C	6-4	262	3	8-19-56	Alabama	12
66	Behning, Mark	T	6-6	277	2	9-26-61	Nebraska	*0
	Blackledge, Todd	QB	6-3	223	6	2-25-61	Penn State	*3
60	Blankenship, Brian	G/C	6-1	281	2	4-7-63	Nebraska	13
15	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	215	4	5-11-62	UCLA	3
65	Boyle, Jim	T	6-5	270	2	7-27-62	Tulane	3
6	Brister, Bubby	QB	6-3	195	3	8-15-62	Northeast Louisiana	2
10	Bruno, John	P	6-2	190	2	9-10-64	Penn State	3
91	†Carr, Gregg	LB	6-2	224	4	3-31-62	Auburn	12
44	Carter, Rodney	RB	6-0	212	2	10-30-64	Purdue	11
88	Clinkscales, Joey	WR	6-0	204	2	5-21-64	Tennessee	7
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	225	12	9-11-55	New Mexico	12
67	Dunn, Gary	NT	6-3	278	12	8-24-53	Miami (Fla.)	13
27	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	179	2	11-21-64	Baylor	12
68	Freeman, Lorenzo	NT/DT	6-5	270	2	5-23-64	Pittsburgh	6
92	†Gary, Keith	DE	6-3	260	6	9-14-59	Oklahoma	11
86	Gothard, Preston	TE	6-4	242	4	2-23-62	Alabama	2
29	Gowdy, Cornell	S/CB	6-1	197	3	10-2-63	Morgan State	13
22	Griffin, Larry	S/CB	6-0	199	3	1-11-63	North Carolina	7
35	Hall, Delton	CB	6-1	205	2	1-16-65	Clemson	12
96	Henton, Anthony	LB	6-1	234	2	7-27-63	Troy State	*0
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	215	7	6-4-59	Oregon	12
33	Hoge, Merrill	RB	6-2	212	2	1-26-65	Idaho State	13
62	Ilkin, Tunch	T	6-3	265	9	9-23-57	Indiana State	11
43	Jackson, Earnest	RB	5-9	219	6	12-18-59	Texas A&M	12
78	Johnson, Tim	DE/DT	6-3	260	2	1-29-65	Penn State	12
84	Lee, Danzell	TE	6-2	229	2	3-16-63	Lamar	13
83	Lipps, Louis	WR	5-10	190	5	8-9-62	Southern Mississippi	4
50	Little, David	LB	6-1	230	8	1-3-59	Florida	12
89	Lockett, Charles	WR	6-0	179	2	10-1-65	Long Beach State	11
74	Long, Terry	G	5-11	275	5	7-21-59	East Carolina	13
	Lucas, Jeff	T	6-7	288	2	5-30-64	West Virginia	3
57	Merriweather, Mike	LB	6-2	221	7	11-26-60	Pacific	12
	Minter, Michael	DT	6-3	275	2	8-13-65	North Texas State	3
64	Nelson, Edmund	DE/DT	6-3	266	7	4-30-60	Auburn	10
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	189	4	1-25-63	Wake Forest	12
54	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	224	2	9-1-65	California	12
30	Pollard, Frank	RB	5-10	230	9	6-15-57	Baylor	12
76	Quick, Jerry	T/G	6-5	273	2	12-30-63	Wichita State	1
79	Rienstra, John	G	6-5	269	3	3-22-63	Temple	12
47	Riley, Cameron	S	6-1	195	1	5-13-64	Missouri	2
28	Sanchez, Lupe	S/KR	5-10	195	3	10-28-61	UCLA	12
20	Stone, Dwight	RB/KR	6-0	188	2	1-28-64	Middle Tennessee State	14
90	Stowe, Tyronne	LB	6-1	232	2	5-30-65	Rutgers	13
87	†Thompson, Weegie	WR	6-6	210	5	3-21-61	Florida State	12
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-2	254	15	3-18-52	Wisconsin	15
98	Williams, Gerald	DE/DT	6-3	270	3	9-3-63	Auburn	9
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6-1	260	7	7-29-59	Northeastern	11
73	Woffley, Craig	G	6-1	272	9	5-19-58	Syracuse	12
49	†Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	6-0	198	9	2-18-57	Louisville	12
26	Woodson, Rod	CB/S/KR	6-0	202	2	3-10-65	Purdue	8
80	Young, Theo	TE	6-2	237	2	4-25-65	Arkansas	12

*Behning and Henton missed '87 season due to injury; Blackledge played 3 games with Chiefs in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Donnie Shell, 14-year safety, 13 games in '87; John Stallworth, 14-year wide receiver, 12 games in '87.

Denver's rivals continue their search, but are finding there's only one Elway

By TOM CUSHMAN
San Diego Tribune

In the John Elway Division, otherwise known as the AFC West, stability at quarterback in recent seasons has been confined to a single, mile high, location.

Elsewhere, as developments of recent months demonstrate, there is unrest. In Los Angeles, a new starter surfaces, only to be replaced late in the same campaign by his predecessor.

In Kansas City, the flip-flopping of Todd Blackledge and Bill Kenney continues until Blackledge flops a final time and is flipped from K.C. to Pittsburgh.

In San Diego, there is a notable retirement, closely followed by a banishment.

In Seattle, despite having a starter who annually returns elegant statistics, a parcel of high draft choices are forfeited to acquire a quarterback who has not lofted a competitive pass since 1986.

In Denver, folks smile at the scrambling in the division's other outposts. Unless injury intervenes, the quarterback competition in that city is closed for the foreseeable future.

Elway, in fact, is the reason for disquiet elsewhere in the West. At that most visible of positions, Big John has established a standard by which all other incumbents, if compared, are found lacking.

Dazzled by Elway, fans in rival cities tend to become intolerant of their own. Noting that Elway has lifted a flaw-pocked Denver team into consecutive Super Bowls, owners dream of finding a duplicate. Although it generally is conceded that only one John Elway exists, the search is on-going.

Unrealistic expectations often lead to unfortunate decisions. Who said that first is not clear, but it definitely was not Al Davis.

For several autumns, fans in Los Angeles had been screaming, somewhat beligerently, for a replacement to Marc Wilson. Last fall, their persistence was rewarded.

Emerging from training camp, the Raiders did so with Rusty Hilger as the starting quarterback. By the time this error was corrected at midseason, and Wilson reinstalled, the tone had been set for one of the worst finishes in the history of that franchise.

In the offseason, the Raiders were one of several teams involved in trade rumors surrounding Jay Schroeder of the Washington Redskins. Neither that, nor any other deal, was completed, however, and as the squad gathered for summer camp only one adjustment in the quarterback situation was anticipated. Reports suggested that Jim Plunkett, nearing his 41st birthday, would be asked to retire.

The Raiders' projected starter for 1988? Marc Wilson.

TSN's Predictions

FINISH	COMMENT
1. Seattle	Acquisition of Kelly Stouffer will make Dave Krieg better quarterback. If Curt Warner is healthy, watch out.
2. Denver	Loss of key coaches to Raiders could hurt. But with John Elway, Broncos never far from the top.
3. L.A. Raiders	If offensive line stays healthy, Marc Wilson can be steady quarterback. But ground game is necessary ingredient.
4. Kansas City	Could be surprise team in division if quarterback Bill Kenney stays healthy and running game shows improvement.
5. San Diego	Still too many cooks with hands in pot. Some talent there, but front office must come together for success.

For much of the decade, coaches in Kansas City had been waiting for Todd Blackledge to provide the leadership and efficiency anticipated when he was drafted out of Penn State. Lack of opportunity was not an issue; Blackledge was forced into the lineup at times when there seemed no obvious reason for Bill Kenney to be relieved.

That controversy finally has been muted. The offseason trade of Blackledge to the Pittsburgh Steelers not only prompted Kansas City Head Coach Frank Gansz to announce that his starter in 1988 will be Kenney, in so doing Gansz said, "For us to reach our ultimate potential, Bill Kenney must continue to play great football for us."

It is widely believed that Kenney will have a better chance of doing that on the field than on the bench.

An incumbent who will not return is Dan Fouts, pilot of perhaps the most spectacular aerial attack the National Football League ever has seen. In the second year of Al Saunders' field leadership, the Chargers insist they are in the process of restructuring their offense... From the display in 1987, what they have in mind still is not clear.

Whatever, responding to front-office pressure, Fouts accepted a settlement on the final year of his contract and took his battered body permanently to the sidelines after 15 years.

"It's hard to say you can't play anymore," said Fouts. "My knees were telling me, my back was telling me, my shoulder was telling me, my shoulder was telling me to quit, but somewhere getting to my brain, it kind of got blocked."

Immediately, the Chargers plunged into the trade waters—investigating the possibility of acquiring, among others, Joe Montana of the San Francisco 49ers, Schroeder and—here's that name again—Marc Wilson.

When they emerged, however, it was with Mark Malone, plucked from the Steelers for an eighth-round draft choice in 1988 and a conditional eighth-round choice in '89.

The reason why Malone was available so cheaply: His passing efficiency rating for 1987 was the worst in the league.

The Chargers' next move was to ship Mark Herrmann, an adequate backup to Fouts for the past three seasons, to Indianapolis at the behest of Owner Alex Spanos, who was convinced his team could not win with Herrmann at quarterback. Whether it can succeed with Malone, Mark Vlasic (an NFL sophomore) or the recently signed Steve Fuller (idle since being dropped by the Bears in 1986), is a question that does not have the city of San Diego panting for the answer.

In Dave Krieg, Seattle has a quarterback whose passing efficiency rating is fifth in league history and who is second only to Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins in the number of touchdown passes (121) thrown in the league since 1983.

Krieg is not Elway, though, as he frequently, and rudely, is reminded by Seahawks fans. In perhaps the boldest off-season move by an AFC West team, the Seahawks sought to underpin that position by acquiring the rights to Kelly Stouffer from the Phoenix Cardinals. Drafted in the first round of the 1987 lottery by the Cardinals, who then failed to sign him, Stouffer was judged a far better prospect than any quarterback available in '88.

The quarterback pickings were so lean, in fact, that the Seahawks and Chargers each expended their first two draft selections on wide receivers. The Raiders already had used the sixth choice overall to take Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown of Notre Dame, also a wide receiver.

The draft left cynics in Seattle, San Diego, Los Angeles and Kansas City puzzled. Who, they keep asking, do we have to throw the ball to them?

The answers apparently are Krieg, Malone, Wilson and Kenney. In fact, the only quarterbacks chosen in the 1988 draft by teams in the AFC West were collared in the 11th round—Danny McManis of Florida State by Kansas City, and Dave Weber of Carroll (Wis.) by the Raiders.

Bill Kenney and Marc Wilson, beware. ■

Late-season defensive collapse sends Knox, coaches back to drawing board

By JOHN CLAYTON
Tacoma News Tribune

Office lights burned late into the February and March evenings at the Seattle Seahawks' plush headquarters. Projectors and video recorders whirled non-stop.

"We would go into meetings and into the camera rooms at 9:15 each morning, and we would not take any phone calls," Coach Chuck Knox said. "We would go eight to nine hours solid a day and try to break down two films a day."

Year Five in Knox's third franchise rebuilding program left the entire coaching staff retreating to planning rooms to search for answers. Last year's 9-6 season will be remembered as the one that put this franchise at a crossroads. The Seahawks were good enough to make the playoffs as a wild-card team, but they lost to the Houston Oilers in a game that epitomized the year. The defense couldn't stop the Oilers in critical moments, and the coaches don't know why.

Never in his 15 years as an NFL head coach had Knox watched his defense allow 4.7 yards per rush, worst in the league in 1987. Never in his 10 years as the Seahawks' special-teams coach had Rusty Tillman's coverage units surrendered two touchdown returns and 20.6 yards per kickoff return.

"Every coach reviewed each play of every game," Knox said. "The season wasn't a disappointment, but we need to do a little more if we want to go to the Super Bowl. And we want to go to the Super Bowl."

The question surrounding the Seahawks is whether they are good enough to make it to the Super Bowl this year or next. They thought they were good enough last year.

It was a season of jealousy and strike-inflicted bickering that started when rookie linebacker Brian Bosworth signed an \$11 million contract in early August. Veterans grumbled among themselves and some even delighted in Bosworth's early struggle to learn the defense.

As the season progressed, defensive starters such as linebacker Fredd Young and end Jeff Bryant publically hinted that Bosworth's presence was creating problems. Young, the Seahawks' best defensive player last year, coveted the rookie's salary. Bryant, who has performed with silent excellence for six seasons in Seattle, called The Boz a bad apple after the Washington Post published a story in which Bosworth expressed his discomfort in Seattle.

Hours before the end of the players' strike in October, defensive end Jacob Green almost decked Bosworth in a players' meeting.

Knox promises without hesitation that



High-priced rookie Brian Bosworth struggled through a controversial season in Seattle.

the defense will be better. If things work out the way he wants in training camp, Knox will start three second-year linebackers (Bosworth, Tony Woods and Dave Wyman) alongside Pro Bowler Young.

To do so, Young would have to move from the strong side inside linebacking post to the right outside so that he could blitz and harass. Bosworth would move to Young's vacated spot to prove his claim that he would be more effective on the strong side. Woods and Wyman, the Seahawks' top two draft choices in 1987, would fill out the rest of the linebacking corps with Woods playing left outside and Wyman, coming off major shoulder surgery, playing weak inside.

A major change in the secondary was already in the works but it didn't come out the way it was planned.

Four days before the April draft, Knox traded five-time Pro Bowl strong safety Kenny Easley and the team's 1989 No. 1 draft choice to the Phoenix Cardinals for the rights to quarterback Kelly Stouffer, the Cards' top pick in 1987 who had not signed. In a physical given Easley as part of the deal, two Phoenix doctors discovered his kidneys were almost shut down. The doctors said it would be life-threatening for Easley to continue playing, thereby ending his seven-year pro career.

Backup strong safety Paul Moyer, perhaps Easley's closest friend on the team, is the likely replacement. Though Moyer lacks Easley's speed, he's gutsy and intelligent.

The rest of the secondary is in decent shape. Cornerbacks Terry Taylor and Patrick Hunter, though inconsistent at times, rank among the best cover men in the league. Free safety Eugene Robinson has improved in his first two seasons as a

starter.

Once the strength of the defense, the line has slipped the past two seasons. Green earned his second consecutive Pro Bowl spot on the strength of his 9.5 sacks, but occasional inconsistency and weakness against the run put him on the trading block after the season. Nose tackle Joe Nash has struggled with ankle and back problems for two years and hasn't occupied the two blockers like the coaching staff wants.

The only defender to evade criticism last season was Bryant, in large part because he's so strong against the run.

"The last year we played real good defense here was 1984," Knox said. The Seahawks were sixth in the league in total defense that year; 22nd last year. "We have young talent that has some outstanding potential. Our three-, four- and five-year guys need to play better than they played last year."

Knox doesn't have as many complaints about an offensive unit that is still in transition. Over the past two years, the Seahawks have remodeled their backfield and offensive line. To supplement Pro Bowl halfback Curt Warner, the Seahawks have drafted a complete fullback, John L. Williams, and two promising backups—halfback Kevin Harmon and fullback Tommie Agee—the last few years.

Warner, who rushed for 985 yards and eight touchdowns in 1987, suffered a twisted left ankle in the regular-season finale against Kansas City. By late spring, however, Warner's ankle still had not fully recovered and he even needed an operation in May to remove bone spurs. Even though Warner is just 27 years old, he's now had operations on one knee and both ankles.

The once-troublesome offensive line has become a strength. Right guard Bryan Millard has become a star. The other members of the starting unit—tackles Ron Mattes and Mike Wilson, guard Edwin Bailey and center Grant Feasel—are steady if not spectacular.

With the running backs and offensive linemen set, management will concentrate on quarterback and the receiving corps. In acquiring Stouffer, the Seahawks have found the strong-armed thrower they have been seeking for a decade. The Colorado State product gives Knox a young quarterback to mature behind veteran Dave Krieg. The knock on Krieg, who threw for 23 touchdowns, completed 60 percent of his passes but also fumbled 11 times last season, is whether he is talented enough to lead a team to the Super Bowl.

The Seattle receiving corps will have to undergo a face-lift. Four years of waiting for Daryl Turner to explode has left the Seahawks without a deep threat. In-

Continued

stead of waiting another year, speedsters Brian Blades (Miami, Fla.) and Tommy Kane (Syracuse) were drafted with the hopes of adding another dimension to a passing game built around dependable veteran Steve Largent.

Largent, who caught 58 passes a year ago to become the league's all-time leading receiver with 752 receptions, enters his 13th NFL campaign needing 106 yards to become its all-time yardage leader. This could be his last season, and Knox would like him to leave with a Super Bowl ring.

Norm Johnson, who connected on 15 of his 20 field-goal attempts and didn't miss an extra-point try last year, returns for his seventh season as the Seattle placekicker. The punting will be handled by Ruben Rodriguez, who struggled at times in his rookie year but still averaged 40 yards a kick. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Denver	2:00
Sept. 11—KANSAS CITY	1:00
Sept. 18—at San Diego	1:00
Sept. 25—SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 2—at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 9—at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 16—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 23—at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
Oct. 30—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov. 6—BUFFALO	1:00
Nov. 13—HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 20—at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 28—L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 4—at New England	1:00
Dec. 11—DENVER	5:00
Dec. 18—at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(9-7)

Seahawks	Opp.	Att.
17 Denver	40 (A)	75,999
43 Kansas City	14 (H)	61,667
San Diego	(A)	
24 Miami	20 (H)	19,448
10 Cincinnati	17 (H)	31,739
37 Detroit	14 (A)	8,310
35 L.A. Raiders	13 (A)	52,735
28 Minnesota	17 (H)	61,134
14 New York Jets	30 (A)	60,452
24 Green Bay	13 (H)	60,963
34 San Diego	3 (H)	62,444
14 L.A. Raiders	37 (H)	62,802
9 Pittsburgh	13 (A)	48,881
28 Denver	21 (H)	61,759
34 Chicago	21 (A)	62,518
20 Kansas City	41 (A)	20,370

AFC WILD-CARD GAME

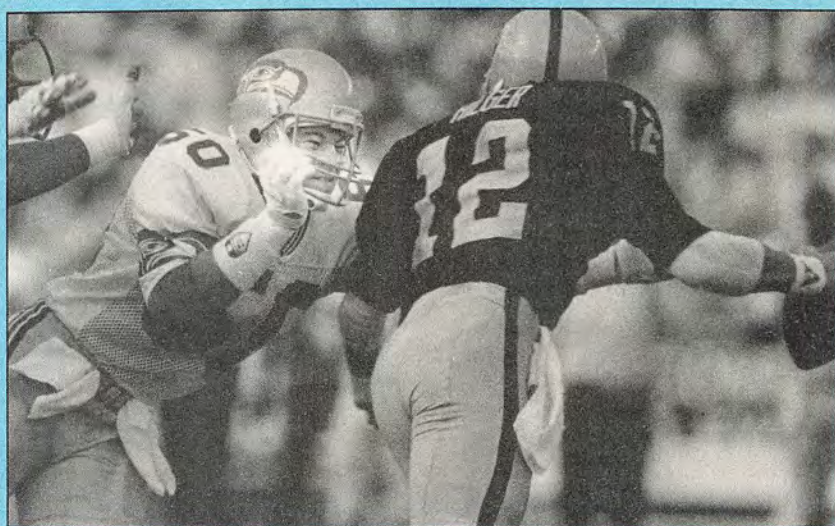
20 Houston (OT)	23 (A)	49,622
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. Choice exercised in 1987 supplemental draft for Brian Bosworth, LB, Oklahoma		
2. BLADES, Brian	WR	Miami (Fla.)
3. KANE, Tommy	WR	Syracuse
4. HARMON, Kevin	RB	Iowa
5. Choice to L.A. Raiders through San Francisco and N.Y. Jets		
6. HART, Roy	NT	South Carolina
7. JACKSON, Ray	DB	Ohio State
8. TYLER, Robert	TE	South Caro. St.
9. WISE, Deatrich	NT	Jackson State
10. JONES, Derwin	DE	Miami (Fla.)
11. McLEOD, Rick	T	Washington
from Green Bay		
11. HARPER, Dwayne	DB	South Caro. St.
12. DesROCHERS, Dave	T	San Diego St.



Seattle Seahawks linebacker Fredd Young.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	276	8	5-15-59	South Carolina State	12
62	Barbay, Roland	NT	6-4	260	2	10-1-64	Louisiana State	5
76	†Borchardt, Jon	T	6-5	272	10	8-13-57	Montana State	12
55	Bosworth, Brian	LB	6-2	248	2	3-9-65	Oklahoma	12
77	†Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	272	7	5-22-60	Clemson	12
97	Burnham, Tim	T	6-5	280	2	5-6-63	Washington	3
34	Burse, Tony	RB	6-0	220	2	4-4-65	Middle Tennessee State	12
59	†Bush, Blair	C	6-3	272	11	11-25-56	Washington	11
53	†Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	239	11	5-16-56	Memphis State	12
83	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	206	9	6-28-56	Southern California	12
84	Clark, Louis	WR	6-0	206	2	7-3-64	Mississippi State	2
45	Easley, Kenny	S	6-3	198	8	1-15-59	UCLA	12
30	Edmonds, Bobby Joe	RB	5-11	186	3	9-26-64	Arkansas	11
54	Feasel, Grant	C	6-7	280	4	6-28-60	Abilene Christian	12
88	†Franklin, Byron	WR	6-1	183	7	9-3-58	Auburn	6
56	†Gaines, Greg	LB	6-3	222	7	10-16-58	Tennessee	11
7	†Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	206	3	12-20-61	California	*0
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	252	9	1-21-57	Texas A&M	12
47	Hardy, Andre	RB	6-1	233	3	11-28-61	St. Mary's (Calif.)	*1
78	Heller, Ron	T	6-6	280	5	8-25-62	Penn State	*12
25	Hollis, David	CB	5-11	175	2	7-4-65	Nevada-Las Vegas	11
29	Holloway, Johnny	CB	5-11	182	3	11-8-63	Kansas	*3
23	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	185	3	10-24-64	Nevada-Reno	11
24	Jenkins, Melvin	CB	5-10	170	2	3-16-62	Cincinnati	12
52	Johnson, M.L.	LB	6-3	225	2	1-24-64	Hawaii	8
9	†Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	198	7	5-31-60	UCLA	13
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-11	185	9	5-3-55	Oregon State	7
15	Kemp, Jeff	QB	6-0	201	8	7-11-59	Dartmouth	13
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	196	9	10-20-58	Milton	12
37	†Lane, Eric	RB	6-0	201	8	1-6-59	Brigham Young	12
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	13	9-28-54	Tulsa	13
13	Mathison, Bruce	QB	6-3	205	5	4-25-59	Nebraska	3
70	†Mattes, Ron	T	6-6	306	3	8-8-63	Virginia	12
51	†Merriman, Sam	LB	6-3	232	6	5-5-61	Idaho	9
71	Millard, Bryan	G	6-5	284	5	12-2-60	Texas	12
61	Miltz, Alonzo	DE	6-3	273	3	6-5-63	Florida	6
35	Moore, Mark	S	6-0	194	2	9-3-64	Oklahoma State	5
43	Morris, Randall	RB	6-0	200	5	4-22-62	Tennessee	10
	Morrison, Tim	CB	6-1	195	3	4-3-63	North Carolina	*7
21	†Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	201	6	7-26-61	Arizona State	12
72	†Nash, Joe	NT	6-2	257	7	10-11-60	Boston College	12
73	†Powell, Alvin	G	6-5	296	2	11-19-59	Winston-Salem State	12
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	186	4	5-28-63	Colgate	12
5	Rodriguez, Ruben	P	6-2	220	2	3-3-65	Arizona	12
27	†Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	12	12-16-53	North Carolina Central	*5
58	Scholtz, Bruce	LB	6-6	242	7	9-26-58	Texas	8
74	Singer, Curt	T	6-5	279	2	11-4-61	Tennessee	*0
82	†Skansi, Paul	WR	5-11	183	6	1-11-61	Washington	12
87	Strozier, Wilbur	TE	6-4	255	2	11-12-64	Georgia	12
20	†Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	191	5	7-18-61	Southern Illinois	12
85	Teal, Jimmy	WR	5-11	175	4	8-18-62	Texas A&M	4
86	†Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	247	8	2-2-59	Maryland	12
90	Tipton, Rico	LB	6-2	240	2	7-31-61	Washington State	3
81	†Turner, Daryl	WR	6-3	194	5	12-15-61	Michigan State	12
28	Warner, Curt	RB	5-11	205	5	3-18-61	Penn State	12
32	Williams, John L.	RB	5-11	226	3	11-23-64	Florida	12
91	Williams, Lester	NT	6-3	290	6	1-19-59	Miami (Fla.)	2
75	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	280	11	5-28-55	Georgia	12
57	Woods, Tony	LB	6-4	244	2	9-11-65	Pittsburgh	12
92	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	229	2	3-31-64	Stanford	4
50	Young, Fredd	LB	6-1	233	5	11-14-61	New Mexico State	13

*Gilbert and Singer missed '87 season due to injury; Hardy played 1 game with 49ers in '87; Heller played 12 games with Buccaneers in '87; Holloway played 3 games with Cardinals in '87; Morrison played 7 games with Redskins in '87; Romes played 5 games with Chargers in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

After second straight Super loss, Broncos ask, 'Where's the beef?'

By JOSEPH SANCHEZ
Denver Post

Charles Atlas would be proud of the Denver Broncos. There will be no more bullies kicking sand in their faces at Super Bowls. After absorbing a nasty physical beating at the hands of the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl XXII, the Broncos barely took time to nurse their bruises before finding a way to bulk up.

The Broncos may not be the quickest learners—remember, the same thing happened against the Giants in Super Bowl XXI—but the lessons they've been given finally have sunk in. A more physical team, with ample time to prepare, will exploit a weaker one.

"I'd have to say the two weeks between games was to their advantage," said Broncos Coach Dan Reeves, meaning both the Redskins and the Giants. "At least I know if we had it to do over, we'd have rather played both of them after just one week to prepare."

The National Football League isn't apt to alter its post-season schedule to accommodate the Broncos, so the Broncos have begun to alter their approach.

"I don't know what it's going to take to win this thing, more size or what," said quarterback John Elway, "but we've got to do something to get better."

The first step was easy. The Broncos aimed their draft at bigger, stronger prospects. Step No. 2 was trickier. It involved restructuring their offense.

Elway was still going to be behind center when training camp opened in July, but the horses lined up in front of him were going to be broader of beam than in the past.

At left tackle was the rookie Gerald Perry from Southern University, a 6-6 321-pounder and owner of the biggest backside ever to stretch the seams of a pair of orange-striped football pants.

Within hours after Perry had been selected as the Broncos' second-round draft choice, he had captured the fancy of the local media and, in all likelihood, the job that has belonged to Dave Studdard.

A one-time basketball star who broke the high school scoring and rebounding records set by Alex English, now of the Denver Nuggets, Perry was recruited to play basketball at South Carolina. But as the 212-pound freshman turned into a 235-pound sophomore it became fairly apparent that his career lay in football.

Said Reeves, "I've never seen a big man carry his weight like he can."

Seventh-round pick Garry Frank, a guard from Mississippi State, is another indication of the Broncos' new attempt to get physical. A 305-pound offensive tackle, Frank is the United States Open Powerlift champion and NCAA shotput champ who



Ricky Nattiel is one of quarterback John Elway's big-play receivers.

bypassed the Olympics for the NFL.

"We like these guys you can't see over or around," said George Henshaw, Denver's new offensive line coach.

Studdard, the 260-pound veteran at left tackle who suffered a major knee injury against the Redskins, is not expected to return to the starting lineup.

The Broncos won't be any bigger at left guard, but the quality of play is guaranteed with Pro Bowler Keith Bishop (260) returning for his seventh season.

At center, 275-pound Keith Kartz is expected to replace 258-pound Billy Bryan, another veteran who is coming off knee surgery. And the Broncos have reserved a spot for the promising Jim Juriga at right guard if, as expected, he can beat out veteran Stefan Humphries. Each of them weighs in at 270. Ken Lanier, a 270-pounder, is a fixture at right tackle.

Denver's offensive philosophy won't undergo drastic change, but there likely will be different approaches to technique, influenced by new assistant coaches Reeves hired during the off-season.

In addition to Henshaw, the Broncos welcome newcomers Mo Forte (running backs), Larry Kennan (wide receivers), Pete Mangurian (tight ends) and Charlie Waters (special teams/defensive backfield).

With Elway and "The Three Amigos"—speedy receivers Ricky Nattiel, Mark Jackson and Vance Johnson—the Broncos will remain a big-play team in 1988. But with new coaches, observed Reeves, "the one thing you get is a lot of fresh ideas and a lot of new ways of doing things."

It was not until late last season that the Broncos—slow learners, remember—recognized that their defense was soft in two critical areas—the middle of the line and at cornerback.

The problem at cornerback became woefully evident in the playoffs when Cleveland's Earnest Byner, among others, began using Jeremiah Castille and Mark Haynes as steppingstones downfield. And Broncos coaches cast worried glances down the line of scrimmage when their diminutive nose tackle, Greg Kragen, kept disappearing beneath bigger men.

Defensive coordinator Joe Collier, who regards nose tackle as the cornerstone of his stack defense, put in his draft-day request for Syracuse's Ted Gregory, partly on the recommendation of an old friend, Syracuse Coach Dick MacPherson. Gregory became Denver's first-round pick, and he's expected to fill the gaping hole in the middle. Gregory's lone blemish is a sketchy medical history that includes a broken left leg and a left knee that required midseason treatment.

"He's a guy that's been pro-coached," said defensive assistant coach Stan Jones. "This is almost like cheating."

With Gregory anchoring the middle and Freddie Gilbert and Tony Colorito restored to health, the Broncos envision a return to bygone days when they could rotate their defensive linemen. They may even use some four-man fronts again.

Cornerbacks? The Broncos hope that third-round pick Kevin Guidry of LSU or fifth-round pick Corris Ervin of Central Florida can mature quickly.

With the unhappy Haynes removed from the roster during the off-season and with veteran workhorse Steve Wilson taking on age, Bronco fans can expect to see new faces at cornerback.

To make it easier on the corners, the Broncos have simplified their coverage schemes this season, asking the corners to follow the wide receivers in slot formations. Safeties Dennis Smith and Mike Harden will be asked to take on the run.

"We're putting more pressure on the cornerbacks in pass coverage," explained Collier, "but a lot less pressure on them against the run."

That also means that the 6-3, 215-pound Smith, the former All-Pro, will no longer be asked to try to play man coverage against 5-9, 180-pound wide receivers.

The linebacking situation remains unsettled, because Reeves wants All-Pro Karl Mecklenburg in the middle of the

Continued

field, where he can range to either side of the center. If there's a new face among the linebackers, it will probably belong to Michael Brooks, a second-year player from LSU who was slowed last season by a knee injury.

Rich Karlis, who kicked 18 field goals and all 37 of his extra-point tries, will return for his seventh season as the Denver placekicker. Mike Horan averaged 41.1 yards per punt last year in his first season with the Broncos.

It figures to be a difficult task, improving on back-to-back Super Bowl berths. But even if the Broncos aren't better this season, they are certain to be bigger. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—SEATTLE	2:00
Sept. 11—SAN DIEGO	2:00
Sept. 18—at Kansas City	12:00
Sept. 26—L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	6:00
Oct. 2—at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 9—at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 16—ATLANTA	2:00
Oct. 23—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 31—at Indianapolis (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 6—KANSAS CITY	2:00
Nov. 13—CLEVELAND	2:00
Nov. 20—at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 27—LOS ANGELES RAMS	2:00
Dec. 4—at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
Dec. 11—at Seattle	5:00
Dec. 17—NEW ENGLAND (Sat.)	2:00

1987 RESULTS—(12-5-1)

Broncos	Opp.	Att.
40 Seattle	17 (H)	75,999
17 Green Bay (OT)	17 (A)	50,624
Cleveland*	(A)	
10 Houston	40 (H)	38,494
30 L.A. Raiders	14 (H)	61,230
26 Kansas City	17 (A)	20,296
27 Minnesota	34 (A)	51,011
34 Detroit	0 (H)	75,172
14 Buffalo	21 (A)	63,698
31 Chicago	29 (H)	75,783
23 L.A. Raiders	17 (A)	61,318
31 San Diego	17 (A)	61,880
31 New England	20 (H)	75,794
21 Seattle	28 (A)	61,759
20 Kansas City	17 (H)	75,053
24 San Diego	0 (H)	21,189

AFC SEMIFINAL GAME

34 Houston	10 (H)	75,968
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AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

38 Cleveland	33 (H)	75,993
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NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

10 Washington	42 (†)	73,302
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*Game cancelled due to strike.

(†) Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, Calif.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. GREGORY, Ted	NT	Syracuse
2. PERRY, Gerald	T	Southern U.
from Minnesota		
3. Choice to Minnesota		
2. GUIDRY, Kevin	DB	Louisiana State
from New Orleans		
3. Choice to New Orleans		
4. Choice to Minnesota		
5. ERVIN, Corris	DB	Central Florida
6. Choice to Minnesota		
7. KELLY, Pat	TE	Syracuse
from L.A. Rams		
7. FRANK, Garry	G	Mississippi St.
8. Choice to Miami		
9. FARR, Mel	RB	UCLA
10. WILLIAMS, Channing	RB	Arizona State
from Pittsburgh		
10. Choice to New Orleans		
11. CALVIN, Richard	RB	Washington St.
12. CARTER, Johnny	NT	Grambling



Denver Broncos wide receiver Vance Johnson

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
	Ackerman, Rick	DE	6-4	250	5	6-16-59	Memphis State	*3
86	Andrews, Mitch	TE	6-2	239	2	3-4-64	Louisiana State	8
	Araposthasis, Evan	P	5-10	165	2	10-30-63	Eastern Illinois	*0
35	†Bell, Ken	RB	5-10	190	3	11-16-64	Boston College	12
54	Bishop, Keith	C/G	6-3	265	8	3-10-57	Baylor	12
24	Boddie, Tony	RB	5-11	198	2	11-11-60	Montana State	5
65	Bowyer, Walt	DE	6-4	260	4	9-8-60	Arizona State	15
34	Braxton, Tyrone	S	5-11	174	2	12-17-64	North Dakota State	2
56	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	2	10-2-64	Louisiana State	12
	Brown, Arnold	DB	5-11	185	2	8-27-62	North Carolina Central	*2
64	†Bryan, Bill	C	6-2	255	12	9-21-55	Duke	4
95	Bryan, Steve	NT	6-2	256	2	5-6-64	Oklahoma	4
	Buford, Maury	P	6-1	191	6	2-18-60	Texas Tech	*0
28	†Castille, Jeremiah	CB/S	5-10	175	6	1-15-61	Alabama	11
27	Clark, Kevin	S	5-10	185	2	6-8-64	San Jose State	11
69	†Colorito, Tony	NT	6-5	260	2	9-8-64	Southern California	*0
	Davis, Tyrone	DB	6-1	190	2	11-17-61	Clemson	*0
55	Dennison, Rick	LB	6-3	220	7	6-22-58	Colorado State	12
	Dodge, Kirk	LB	6-1	231	4	6-4-62	Nevada-Las Vegas	3
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	210	6	6-28-60	Stanford	12
73	Fletcher, Simon	DE/LB	6-5	240	4	2-18-62	Houston	12
62	Freeman, Mike	G	6-3	256	4	10-13-61	Arizona	13
90	†Gilbert, Freddie	DE	6-4	275	3	4-8-62	Georgia	7
83	Graddy, Sam	WR	5-10	165	2	2-10-64	Tennessee	1
31	Harden, Mike	CB/S	6-1	192	9	2-16-59	Michigan	12
36	Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	195	9	11-6-58	Colorado	12
78	Hood, Winford	G	6-3	265	5	3-29-62	Georgia	3
2	†Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	5	2-1-59	Long Beach State	12
	Hudson, Gordon	TE	6-4	241	2	6-22-62	Brigham Young	*0
79	†Humphries, Stefan	G	6-3	268	5	1-20-62	Michigan	7
98	†Hunley, Ricky	LB	6-2	238	5	11-11-61	Arizona	12
80	Jackson, Mark	WR	5-9	174	3	7-23-63	Purdue	12
82	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	174	4	3-13-63	Arizona	11
20	Jones, Darryl	S	6-0	193	3	3-23-62	Georgia	1
75	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	260	9	3-25-58	Utah State	12
	Jordan, David	G	6-6	276	4	7-14-62	Auburn	*3
	Karcher, Ken	QB	6-3	205	2	7-1-63	Tulane	3
3	†Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	7	5-23-59	Cincinnati	12
72	Kartz, Keith	T	6-4	270	2	5-5-63	California	12
88	Kay, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	5	7-30-61	Georgia	12
97	†Klostermann, Bruce	LB	6-4	225	2	4-17-63	South Dakota State	9
71	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	245	4	3-4-62	Utah State	12
8	Kubiak, Gary	QB	6-0	192	6	8-15-61	Texas A&M	12
33	Lang, Gene	RB	5-10	196	5	3-15-62	Louisiana State	12
76	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	269	8	7-8-59	Florida State	12
68	†Lee, Larry	G/C	6-2	263	8	9-10-59	UCLA	9
22	†Lilly, Tony	S	6-0	199	5	2-16-62	Florida	13
59	Lucas, Tim	LB	6-3	230	2	4-3-61	California	11
29	Marshall, Warren	RB	6-0	216	2	7-24-64	James Madison	1
85	Massie, Rick	WR	6-1	190	2	1-16-60	Kentucky	9
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	DE/LB	6-3	230	6	9-1-60	Minnesota	12
46	Micho, Bobby	RB	6-3	235	4	3-7-62	Texas	15
89	Mobley, Orson	TE	6-5	256	3	3-4-63	Salem College	10
51	Munford, Marc	LB	6-2	231	2	2-14-65	Nebraska	12
84	Nattiel, Ricky	WR	5-9	180	2	1-25-66	Florida	12
38	Plummer, Bruce	CB	6-1	197	2	9-1-64	Mississippi State	11
	Providence, Andrew	DL	6-3	267	6	3-8-61	South Carolina	*5
74	Remsburg, Dan	T	6-8	275	3	4-7-62	Abilene Christian	5
48	†Robbins, Randy	S	6-2	189	5	9-14-62	Arizona	10
50	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	225	10	5-18-57	William & Mary	14
	Scott, Carlos	T	6-4	285	4	7-2-60	Texas-El Paso	*0
30	Sewell, Steve	RB	6-3	210	4	4-2-63	Oklahoma	7
49	†Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	8	2-3-59	Southern California	6
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	260	10	11-22-55	Texas	14
61	Townsend, Andre	DE/NT	6-3	265	5	10-8-62	Mississippi	12
81	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	195	10	5-28-57	Temple	5
47	Willhite, Gerald	RB	5-10	200	7	5-30-59	San Jose State	3
45	†Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	195	10	8-25-57	Howard	11
23	Winder, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	7	7-15-59	Southern Mississippi	12

*Ackerman played 3 games with Raiders in '87; Araposthasis last active with Cardinals in '86, inactive for 1 game with Broncos in '87; Brown played 2 games with Seahawks in '87; Buford last active with Bears in '86; Colorito missed '87 season due to injury; Davis last active with Giants in '85; Hudson last active with Seahawks in '86; Jordan played 3 games with Buccaneers in '87; Providence played 5 games with Falcons in '87; Scott active for 1 game with Broncos in '87, but did not play.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Al Davis hopes Shanahan can revive stumbling Raiders' winning tradition

By JAY LAWRENCE
Orange County Register

Al Davis couldn't keep from grinning as he stood at the podium during a press conference last February. The Raiders' managing general partner had just been asked about the last time the club had gone outside the organization for a head coach.

The answer was 1963, and the reason for the grin was simple. The last coach selected from "outside the organization" was Al Davis, then 33.

"We did pretty good then, didn't we?" Davis said with a smile. "Come to think of it, we did great."

Now Davis hopes that history repeats. For the first time in 25 years, the club has gone outside the Raider family in search of a successor to Tom Flores, who retired unexpectedly on January 20.

Davis found his new coach at the top of the American Football Conference's Western Division, which the Raiders haven't seen since 1985. Former Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan, at age 35, became the youngest head coach in the NFL when Davis introduced him.

The situation confronting Shanahan is not so different from the one Davis inherited. Davis took over a team that had finished 1-13 in 1962 and guided it to a 10-4 record the following year.

The 1987 season was a 5-10 nightmare that saw the Raiders finish ahead of only the Kansas City Chiefs in their division, an uncomfortable resting spot for the self-proclaimed "most successful organization in pro sports."

Problems weren't confined to the field in '87. The Raiders led the league with 26 defections during the 24-day players' strike, and divisiveness joined them in the huddle when they returned to work.

The situation was not lost on Shanahan, who espouses this perspective: "I believe the success of football teams is not necessarily talent. It's chemistry."

So began the mixing and blending.

The Raiders traded defensive end Sean Jones, the club's player representative during the strike, to Houston for a first-round draft pick. They sent wide receiver Dokie Williams and two draft choices to San Francisco for another No. 1 pick. They hired new assistant coaches Alex Gibbs, Nick Nicolau and Pete Rodriguez. (Gibbs and Nicolau had been with Shanahan at Denver and Rodriguez was from the Canadian Football League.)

They seemingly did everything but get a new quarterback, which some believe is the Raiders' biggest need.

Shanahan says that he'll find a starter from among Marc Wilson, Vince Evans, Steve Beuerlein, Jim Plunkett and Rusty Hilger. But none of those names strikes



Bo Jackson won the hearts of Raider fans but won't be available until he fulfills his baseball commitment.

John Elway-type fear into the hearts of enemy secondaries.

"What you do is make evaluations on how you see people perform," Shanahan said. "That will take you through the off-season and through training camp. And after those things are evaluated, that's when we'll come up with a decision."

The oft-maligned Wilson appears to have the advantage. After Hilger was benched on November 8, Wilson finished the season as the fifth-rated passer in the AFC. For the first time since 1983, he threw more touchdown passes (12) than interceptions (eight). But he was aided immeasurably by the presence of Bo Jackson in the Raiders' backfield, a luxury the club will be without early in the '88 season while Jackson completes his baseball commitment.

The Raiders liked what they saw on November 30, when Jackson gained a club-record 221 yards in a 37-14 thrashing of Seattle. But Jackson will be in left field for the Kansas City Royals until the Raiders are well into their '88 schedule.

"You'd love to have Bo Jackson all year round," Shanahan said. "But we're not in that situation. We don't have that freedom or luxury. I'm just happy we do have Bo Jackson on our team."

Former bellwether ball carrier Marcus Allen, who alternated between tailback and fullback last season, led the team in receptions with 51, but he had only one 100-yard rushing game.

Still, the Raiders' biggest offensive concern is their passing game, as evidenced

Continued

AFC WEST

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

AFC WEST

by Todd Christensen's final reception totals: 47 catches and two touchdowns. In each of the previous four seasons, he had 80 or more receptions.

The first of the Raiders' three first-round draft picks, Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown of Notre Dame, could provide help at wide receiver, where Mervyn Fernandez, formerly a star in the Canadian Football League, was a disappointment in his first NFL season. Fernandez, signed to a four-year, \$1.85 million contract, had only 14 receptions before being placed on injured reserve.

Another problem: The Raiders allowed 53 sacks, second worst in the AFC, at least partly because injuries on the offensive line necessitated shuffling of players. And the injury problems continue. In early

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Sept. 11—at Houston	3:00
Sept. 18—LOS ANGELES RAMS	1:00
Sept. 26—at Denver (Mon.)	6:00
Oct. 2—CINCINNATI	1:00
Oct. 9—MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 16—at Kansas City	12:00
Oct. 23—at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 30—KANSAS CITY	1:00
Nov. 6—at San Diego	5:00
Nov. 13—at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 20—ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 28—at Seattle (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 4—DENVER	1:00
Dec. 11—at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 18—SEATTLE	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(5-10)

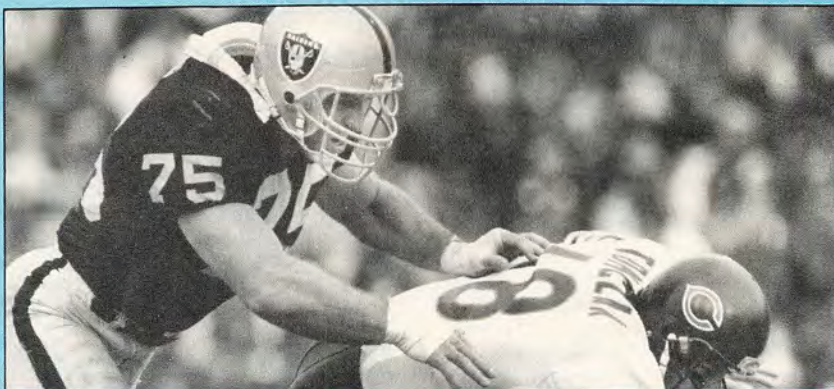
Raiders	Opp.	Att.
20 Green Bay	0 (A)	54,983
27 Detroit	7 (H)	50,300
Houston*	(A)	
35 Kansas City	17 (H)	10,708
14 Denver	30 (A)	61,230
17 San Diego	23 (H)	23,541
13 Seattle	35 (H)	52,735
23 New England	26 (A)	60,664
20 Minnesota	31 (A)	57,150
14 San Diego	16 (A)	60,639
17 Denver	23 (H)	61,318
37 Seattle	14 (A)	62,802
34 Buffalo	21 (H)	43,143
10 Kansas City	16 (A)	63,834
17 Cleveland	24 (H)	40,275
3 Chicago	6 (H)	78,019

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. BROWN, Tim	WR	Notre Dame
1. McDANIEL, Terry	DB	Tennessee
from L.A. Rams through Houston		
1. DAVIS, Scott	DE	Illinois
from San Francisco		
2. Choice to San Francisco		
3. Choice to San Diego		
through Houston		
4. Choice to Green Bay		
4. ROTHER, Tim	DT	Nebraska
from N.Y. Jets		
5. Choice to New England		
5. PRICE, Dennis	DB	UCLA
from Sea. through S. F.		
and N.Y. Jets		
6. GRABISNA, Erwin	LB	Case W'strn, O.
7. CRUDUP, Derrick	DB	Oklahoma
8. ALEXANDER, Mike	WR	Penn State
9. WARE, Reggie	RB	Auburn
9. TABOR, Scott	P	California
from N.Y. Giants		
10. HARRELL, Newt	T	West Texas St.
11. WEBER, David	QB	Carroll, Wis.
12. KUNKEL, Greg	G	Kentucky



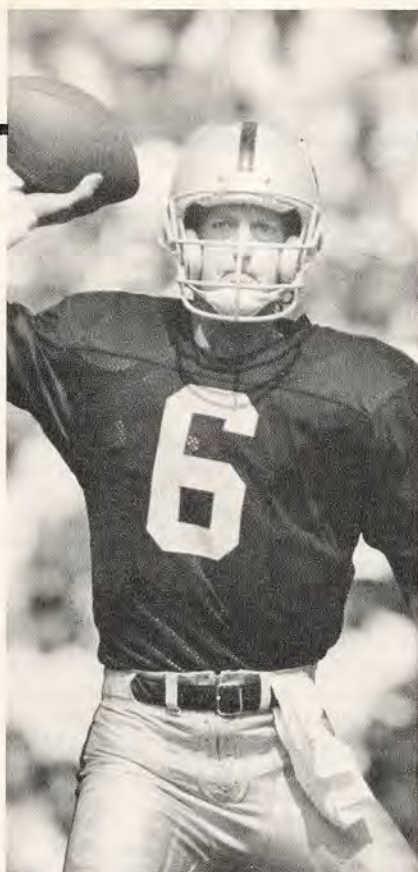
Los Angeles Raiders defensive end Howie Long.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
44	Adams, Stefan	S	5-10	185	3	8-11-63	East Carolina	9
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	205	7	3-26-60	Southern California	12
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	200	3	7-22-63	Fort Valley State	13
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	170	13	2-3-53	Penn State	13
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	12	3-1-55	California	7
	Bennett, Barry	DE	6-4	260	11	12-10-55	Concordia	*13
	Black, Mel	LB	6-2	225	3	2-7-62	Eastern Illinois	*3
82	†Branton, Gene	TE	6-5	245	2	11-23-60	Texas Southern	*0
95	Buczkowski, Bob	DE	6-5	270	2	5-5-64	Pittsburgh	2
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-3	230	10	8-3-56	Brigham Young	12
78	Clay, John	T	6-5	295	2	5-1-64	Missouri	10
45	†Davis, James	S	6-0	195	7	6-12-57	Southern	12
	Doig, Steve	LB	6-2	240	5	3-28-60	New Hampshire	*1
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	200	9	6-14-55	Southern California	3
21	Fellows, Ron	CB	6-0	175	8	11-7-58	Missouri	12
86	Fernandez, Mervyn	WR	6-3	200	2	12-29-59	San Jose State	7
63	Gesek, John	C/G	6-5	275	2	2-18-63	Cal State-Sacramento	3
73	Hannah, Charley	G	6-5	265	12	7-26-55	Alabama	5
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	11	1-22-55	Texas A&M	*0
22	†Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	190	13	7-1-53	Arizona State	8
84	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	170	4	1-21-63	Florida State	10
12	Higer, Rusty	QB	6-4	205	4	5-9-62	Oklahoma State	5
76	†Holloway, Brian	T	6-7	285	8	7-25-59	Stanford	12
34	Jackson, Bo	RB	6-1	230	2	11-30-62	Auburn	7
74	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	285	12	1-23-52	Washington (Mo.)	*0
87	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	230	6	1-23-61	Louisiana Tech	12
59	Kimmel, Jamie	LB	6-3	235	3	3-28-62	Syracuse	15
52	King, Linden	LB	6-4	250	11	6-28-55	Colorado State	12
40	†Lee, Zeph	RB	6-3	210	2	6-17-63	Southern California	*3
51	Lewis, Bill	G/C	6-7	275	3	7-12-63	Nebraska	8
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	190	11	7-5-56	Stanford	12
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	265	8	1-6-60	Villanova	14
60	†Marsh, Curt	G	6-5	275	5	8-25-59	Washington	*0
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	225	12	4-7-54	Southern California	12
65	†Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	270	11	10-5-55	Tennessee	1
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6-2	195	7	1-13-60	Baylor	12
54	McKenzie, Reggie	LB	6-1	235	4	2-8-63	Tennessee	10
20	McLemore, Chris	RB	6-1	230	2	12-31-63	Arizona	*5
55	†Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	245	9	3-12-58	Penn State	12
64	†Miraldi, Dean	G	6-6	280	5	4-8-58	Utah	10
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6-6	275	6	9-11-61	Southern California	12
42	Mueller, Vance	RB	6-0	210	3	5-5-64	Occidental	12
81	Parker, Andy	TE	6-5	245	5	9-8-61	Utah	12
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	260	6	11-5-59	Rutgers	12
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	225	17	12-5-47	Stanford	*0
77	†Riehm, Chris	G	6-6	275	2	4-4-61	Ohio State	1
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	225	10	12-18-56	UCLA	12
	Schubert, Eric	K	5-8	185	3	5-28-62	Pittsburgh	*1
43	Seale, Sam	CB	5-9	185	5	10-6-62	Western State (Colo.)	12
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	235	2	8-30-64	Penn State	7
39	†Strachan, Steve	RB	6-1	220	4	3-22-63	Boston College	*11
	Sullivan, John	S	6-1	190	2	10-15-61	California	*1
5	Talley, Stan	P	6-5	220	2	9-5-58	Texas Christian	12
61	Tautolo, John	T	6-4	280	4	5-29-59	UCLA	3
96	†Taylor, Malcolm	DT	6-0	280	5	6-20-60	Tennessee State	12
30	†Toran, Stacey	S	6-3	200	5	10-11-61	Notre Dame	12
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	250	6	11-3-61	Texas Christian	13
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	6	10-21-60	Tulane	*11
67	†Wheeler, Dwight	G/C	6-3	280	8	1-3-55	Tennessee State	*7
68	Wilkinson, Bruce	G	6-5	280	2	7-28-64	Tennessee	11
98	†Willis, Mitch	DT	6-8	275	4	3-16-62	Southern Methodist	10
6	†Wilson, Marc	QB	6-6	205	9	2-15-57	Brigham Young	15
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6-7	265	2	6-5-64	California-Davis	*0
88	Woods, Chris	WR	5-11	190	2	7-19-62	Auburn	9
66	†Wright, Steve	T	6-6	270	6	4-8-59	Northern Iowa	9

*Bennett played 13 games with Jets in '87; Black played 3 games with Patriots in '87; Branton active for 1 game with Raiders in '87, but did not play; Doig played 1 game with Patriots in '87; Hayes, Jordan, Marsh and Plunkett missed '87 season due to injury; Lee played 1 game with Broncos, 2 with Raiders in '87; McLemore played 2 games with Colts, 3 with Raiders in '87; Schubert played 1 game with Patriots in '87; Sullivan played 1 game with 49ers in '87; Wheeler played 3 games with Chargers, 4 with Raiders in '87; Wise active for 1 game with Raiders in '87, but did not play.

†Option payout; subject to developments.



Oft-maligned Marc Wilson appears to have the advantage in the Raiders' quarterback derby.

April, center Don Mosebar underwent his third back operation in five years and may not be ready for training camp. That would force left guard Bill Lewis to move to center.

Brad Budde, the Kansas City Chiefs' No. 1 draft pick in 1980, was signed as a free agent and will compete for a job at guard. Left tackle Brian Holloway, who pondered retirement after the '87 season, now is expected to return. But the Raiders' surest commodity is right tackle John Clay, who in 1987 became the first rookie to start the season on the offensive line since Gene Upshaw in 1967.

On defense, the Raiders will miss Jones' 15½ sacks, but they add first-round draft pick Scott Davis of Illinois. The jury remains out on defensive end Bob Buczkowski, the club's No. 1 pick in '86. Buczkowski missed his rookie season because of back surgery and appeared in only two games last year because of illness and injury. There also will be watchful eyes cast in the direction of veterans Howie Long and Bill Pickel, who combined for a paltry five sacks last year.

Cornerback, traditionally a strength for the Raiders, suddenly looms as a worry. Right corner Mike Haynes is 35 and showing some signs of wear. He's missed seven games because of injuries in two years. Left corner Lionel Washington, acquired

as a replacement for Lester Hayes, was a disappointment in '87.

"I really think Mike can do it," Shanahan said. "I don't look at Mike's age. I look at the job he does. I've always feared him.

"As far as the rest goes, I'm not a person who really talks about the weaknesses of a football team. If people look at themselves as a weakness, they play that way."

Finally, there are the special teams, which were something less than special last year. Kicker Chris Bahr converted only three of 10 field goal attempts from beyond 40 yards. Punter Stan Talley averaged 40.7 yards in his first season as Ray Guy's replacement. An indication of the Raiders' dissatisfaction with both are the new faces who have been invited to compete this year for those posts.

Former UCLA kicker John Lee, a second-round pick of the Cardinals in 1986, will get a shot at place-kicking. Ninth-round draft pick Scott Tabor of California will compete for the punting job.


Shanahan has already indicated that his will be a no-nonsense approach.


"I believe in doing the things I feel need to be done to be successful," he said. "Everybody has different degrees of what they mean to be 'practicing hard.' All I'll say is that we'll do whatever it takes."

In the Raiders' case, now as in 1963, it may take plenty. ■



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Everything's not up to date in Kansas City, and Chiefs' patience is wearing thin

By RICK GOSSELIN
Kansas City Star

The Kansas City Chiefs may have finally run out of patience. After a brief one-game visit to the playoffs in 1986, the '87 Chiefs collapsed back into their losing ways with a 4-11 record, soiled further by a franchise-record nine-game losing streak. It marked the 15th time in the last 16 seasons the Chiefs had failed to qualify for the playoffs, the sixth time in that stretch they had finished in last place in the American Football Conference Western Division and the fifth time their loss column registered double figures.

The blame focused on General Manager Jim Schaaf, who was in his first season as the club's director of football operations, and Frank Gansz, who was in his first season as head coach. Gansz hired two coaches with no previous NFL experience as coordinators—John Paul Young on defense and Homer Smith on offense—and it showed.

Young replaced the 3-4 defensive alignment that helped the Chiefs rank eighth in the NFL with a 4-3 scheme. The Chiefs plummeted to a 27th ranking. Smith installed a college-type offense that relied heavily on movement by the quarterback. The Chiefs wound up 24th and scored only 273 points, third fewest in the AFC.

So Gansz replaced Young and Smith with a couple of NFL veterans—Rod Rust on defense and George Sefcik on offense. Rust has been an NFL coordinator for 10 years, including the last five at New England. Sefcik has been an NFL offensive coach for 14 years, including the last four with Green Bay. Rust's first move was to restore the 3-4 alignment and Sefcik's was to install a passing game built around quick passes and timing routes.

The Chiefs didn't make changes only in the coaching staff, however. They disposed of two recent No. 1 draft picks, trading quarterback Todd Blackledge (1983) to the Pittsburgh Steelers for a fourth-round draft pick and releasing guard Brad Budde (1980). They also released two other veteran starters—tight end Walt Arnold and inside linebacker Gary Spani—and spent the off-season shopping two more veteran starters—four-time Pro Bowl defensive end Art Still and center Rick Donnalley.

Tired of watching the Chiefs sputter on offense when quarterback Bill Kenney is on the sidelines with one of his many injuries, Schaaf traded fourth- and eighth-round draft picks and safety Mark Robinson to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for 34-year-old Steve DeBerg in March. DeBerg has been a starting quarterback for three NFL teams (San Francisco, Denver and Tampa Bay) and figures to battle Kenney for the No. 1 job in Kansas City.

Based on last year's statistics alone, it's



Running back Christian Okoye has given the Chiefs' offense some much-needed firepower.

hard to pick between the two. Kenney finished eighth in the NFL in passing efficiency; DeBerg ninth. Kenney completed 154 of 273 passes for 15 touchdowns and nine interceptions. DeBerg was 159 of 275 for 14 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Kenney's quarterback rating was 85.8; DeBerg's 85.3.

But Schaaf's biggest deal came on the eve of the draft when he sent the club's second-round pick—the 29th overall choice—to the Detroit Lions in order to move up from third to second spot in the first round. The deal was criticized locally because sacrificing a second-round pick seemed a steep price for the privilege of moving up just one spot in the first round. But the Chiefs were convinced that the Los Angeles Raiders and/or Houston Oilers were ready to deal with the Lions for that No. 2 pick, and they didn't want to risk losing the player they coveted.

"Criticism is a part of this business," Schaaf said. "I think we made the choice we felt we had to make, the one that was best for the Chiefs today, tomorrow, next week, next year and the year after that. This is a player we felt we wanted, and we couldn't sit back and wait for somebody

else to get him."

The player Schaaf wanted so desperately was Nebraska defensive end Neil Smith, who Schaaf feels can step in as a rookie at left end for Still, a 10-year veteran and the Chiefs' all-time leading tackler.

"Great players make the difference. What price do you pay for excellence?" Schaaf asked. "What price did Buffalo pay for Cornelius Bennett? It was a heckuva price, but they felt it was worth it. If we didn't feel it was worth it, we wouldn't have made the deal. The only way you're going to get better is with impact players. You don't get better with average players, and we want to get better as fast as we can."

The Chiefs traded for Smith because they were desperate for a pass rusher; they had just 26 sacks last season. Smith runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 and had 9.5 sacks in 11 games for the Huskers last season. Gansz figures the presence of the 6-foot-4, 260-pound Smith will enhance the pass rush of both Pro Bowl nose tackle Bill Maas and right end Mike Bell.

The strength of the defense is the secondary. Safeties Deron Cherry and Lloyd Burruss and cornerback Albert Lewis have all gone to the Pro Bowl in the last two seasons. But without a pass rush last year, the Chiefs intercepted a franchise record-low 11 passes.

"Look at the top defensive teams in the NFL," Gansz said. "San Francisco ranked first, and they're a division champion. Second was Chicago, a division champion. Third was Cleveland, a division champion. Defense is very, very important in this league."

Offensively, the Chiefs seem to have enough firepower to win consistently. Running backs Christian Okoye (660 yards rushing) and Herman Heard (466) both had 100-yard rushing days last year, which for a Chiefs running back in recent years is quite an accomplishment.

In addition, the Chiefs figure to get more mileage out of Paul Palmer in 1988. Palmer, the club's 1987 No. 1 pick, touched the ball only 28 times from scrimmage in his rookie season but averaged 6.5 yards on 24 rushes and four pass receptions. He has breakaway capability, as evidenced by his two 90-yard kickoff returns for touchdowns and 24.3-yard kickoff return average, tops in the AFC.

In Pro Bowler Carlos Carson, the Chiefs had the only receiver in the conference to post a 1,000-yard season in 1987 (1,044 on 55 receptions). Split end Stephane Paige has averaged one touchdown every 5.6 catches in his five-year career. The Chiefs added some much-needed speed by drafting J.R. Ambrose, the career leader in receiving yardage at Mississippi, and Azizuddin Abdur-Ra'ooof, the career leader in receptions at Maryland. Both are 6-foot and run the 40 in 4.5.

The Kansas City offensive line aver-

ages 6-5, 287. The starters are tackles Irv Eatman and David Lutz, guards Mark Adickes and Rich Baldinger and center Tom Baugh. The Chiefs hope that tackle John Alt, the team's most consistent line-man until suffering a knee sprain late last season, will be fully healed by the start of training camp.

Nick Lowery returns for his ninth season as the Chiefs' placekicker after missing just four field goals (19 of 23) and no extra-point attempts last season. Kelly Goodburn averaged 40.9 yards a punt as a rookie.

The collapse was fueled by a 0-3 record by the Chiefs' replacement team after the regulars had split the first two games. The regulars lost four more post-strike games by three points or less but finished strong, winning three of their final five games.

This season, the Chiefs have the opportunity to show whether their playoff season of '86 was an omen of good things to come or just a bump on a road that's going straight downhill. ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—CLEVELAND.....	3:00
Sept. 11—at Seattle	1:00
Sept. 18—DENVER	12:00
Sept. 25—SAN DIEGO	3:00
Oct. 2—at New York Jets	4:00
Oct. 9—at Houston	12:00
Oct. 16—LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	12:00
Oct. 23—DETROIT	12:00
Oct. 30—at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
Nov. 6—at Denver	2:00
Nov. 13—CINCINNATI	12:00
Nov. 20—SEATTLE	12:00
Nov. 27—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 4—NEW YORK JETS.....	3:00
Dec. 11—at New York Giants.....	1:00
Dec. 18—at San Diego	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(4-11)

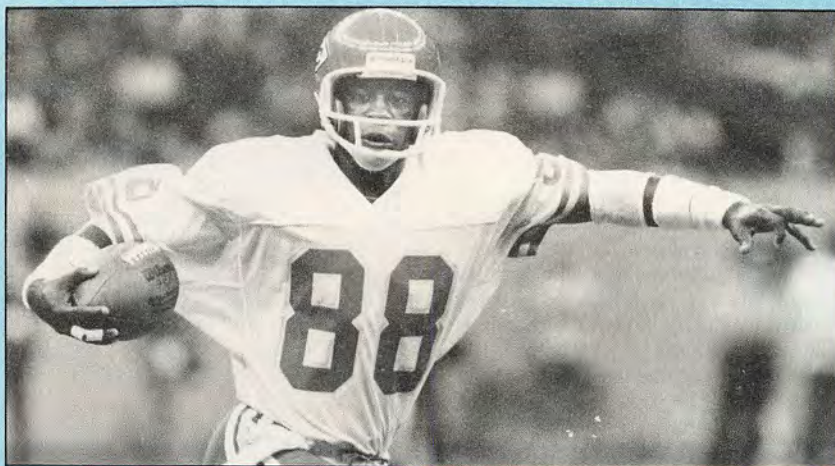
Chiefs	Opp.	Att.
20 San Diego.....	13 (H)	56,940
14 Seattle.....	43 (A)	61,667
Minnesota [*]	(H)	
17 L.A. Raiders	35 (A)	10,708
0 Miami.....	42 (A)	25,867
7 Denver.....	26 (H)	20,296
21 San Diego.....	42 (A)	47,972
28 Chicago.....	31 (A)	63,498
16 Pittsburgh.....	17 (H)	45,249
9 New York Jets	16 (H)	40,718
3 Green Bay	23 (H)	34,611
27 Detroit.....	20 (A)	43,820
27 Cincinnati (OT)	30 (A)	46,489
16 L.A. Raiders.....	10 (H)	63,834
17 Denver.....	20 (A)	75,053
41 Seattle.....	20 (H)	20,370

^{*}Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. SMITH, Neil	DE	Nebraska
from Detroit		
1. Choice to Detroit		
2. Choice to Detroit		
3. PORTER, Kevin	DB	Auburn
4. Choice to Tampa Bay		
4. AMBROSE, J.R.	WR	Mississippi
from Pittsburgh		
5. Choice to New Orleans		
6. SAXON, James	RB	San Jose State
7. STEDMAN, Troy	LB	Washburn, Kan.
8. ROBERTS, Alfredo	TE	Miami (Fla.)
9. ABDUR-RA'OOOF, A.	WR	Maryland
10. GAMBLE, Kenny	RB	Colgate
11. McMANUS, Danny	QB	Florida State
12. Choice to Buffalo		



Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Carlos Carson.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games in '87
61	Adickes, Mark	G	6-4	270	3	4-22-61	Baylor	12
76	†Alt, John	T	6-7	290	5	5-30-62	Iowa	9
91	Baldinger, Gary	NT/DE	6-3	265	3	10- 4-63	Wake Forest	7
77	Baldinger, Rich	G/T	6-4	285	7	12-31-59	Wake Forest	12
58	Baugh, Tom	C	6-3	274	3	12- 1-63	Southern Illinois	12
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	260	8	8-30-57	Colorado State	12
34	Burruss, Lloyd	S	6-0	209	8	10-31-57	Maryland	11
88	†Carson, Carlos	WR	5-11	180	9	12-28-58	Louisiana State	12
20	Cherry, Deron	S	5-11	193	8	9-12-59	Rutgers	8
46	Clemons, Michael	RB/KR	5-5	166	2	1-15-65	William & Mary	8
22	Cocroft, Sherman	S/CB	6-1	192	4	8-29-61	San Jose State	12
54	Cofield, Tim	LB	6-2	245	3	5-18-63	Elizabeth City State	12
81	Colbert, Darrell	WR	5-10	174	2	11-16-64	Texas Southern	12
5	Colbert, Lewis	P	5-11	179	2	8-23-63	Auburn	2
55	†Cooper, Louis	LB	6-2	240	4	8- 5-63	Western Carolina	12
63	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	210	12	1-19-54	San Jose State	12
50	†Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	238	4	4- 4-63	Southern California	10
	DiGiacomo, Curt	C	6-4	275	2	10-24-63	Arizona	0
51	†Donnalley, Rick	C	6-2	260	7	12-11-58	North Carolina	6
75	Eatman, Irv	T	6-7	293	3	1- 1-61	UCLA	12
40	†Fields, Jitter	CB/S/KR	5-9	180	3	8-16-62	Texas	6
2	Goodburn, Kelly	P	6-2	195	2	4-14-62	Emporia State	13
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	258	3	9-22-62	Grambling	12
	Guthrie, Keith	NT	6-4	275	2	8-17-62	Texas A&M	0
56	Hackett, Dino	LB	6-3	228	3	6-28-64	Appalachian State	11
57	†Harrell, James	LB	6-2	240	9	7-19-57	Florida	11
86	†Harry, Emile	WR	5-11	175	2	4- 5-63	Stanford	0
64	Harvey, James	G	6-3	265	2	11-27-65	Jackson State	3
	Hawkins, Andy	LB	6-2	230	7	3-31-58	Texas A&I	2
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	240	4	8-11-62	Iowa	12
44	†Heard, Herman	RB	5-10	182	5	11-24-61	Southern Colorado	12
23	†Hill, Greg	CB	6-1	197	6	2-12-61	Oklahoma State	6
93	†Holle, Eric	NT	6-5	265	5	9- 5-60	Texas	8
53	Howard, Todd	LB	6-2	235	2	2-18-65	Texas A&M	12
81	Jones, Rod	TE	6-4	242	2	3- 3-64	Washington	3
73	Jozwiak, Brian	G	6-5	310	3	6-20-63	West Virginia	10
80	Keel, Mark	TE	6-4	228	2	10- 1-62	Arizona	0
9	Kenney, Bill	QB	6-4	207	10	1-20-55	Northern Colorado	11
74	Koch, Pete	DE	6-6	265	5	1-23-62	Maryland	6
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	192	6	10- 6-60	Grambling	12
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	189	9	5-27-56	Dartmouth	12
72	Lutz, David	T	6-6	290	6	12-30-59	Georgia Tech	12
63	†Maas, Bill	NT	6-5	268	5	3- 2-62	Pittsburgh	11
89	†Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	216	13	8- 9-54	Missouri	12
	Monaco, Ron	LB	6-1	225	2	5- 3-63	South Carolina	2
32	†Moriarty, Larry	RB	6-1	237	6	4-24-58	Notre Dame	12
35	Okoye, Christian	RB	6-1	253	2	8-16-61	Azusa Pacific	12
83	Paige, Stephone	WR	6-2	185	6	10-15-61	Fresno State	12
26	Palmer, Paul	RB/KR	5-9	184	2	10-14-64	Temple	12
43	Parker, Robert	RB	6-1	190	2	1- 7-63	Brigham Young	3
96	Pearson, Aaron	LB	6-0	240	3	8-22-64	Mississippi State	12
24	Pearson, J. C.	CB	5-11	183	3	8-17-63	Washington	12
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	5	1-16-62	Temple	12
10	Seurer, Frank	QB	6-1	195	3	8-16-62	Kansas	8
97	Snipes, Angelo	LB	6-0	215	3	1-11-63	West Georgia	6
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	255	11	12- 5-55	Kentucky	12
38	Thomas, Carlton	CB	6-0	195	2	11-25-63	Elizabeth City State	4
62	Tupper, Jeff	NT	6-5	269	3	12-26-62	Oklahoma	4
98	Walker, John	DE/NT	6-6	270	2	9-12-61	Nebraska-Omaha	3
70	Woodard, Ray	DE	6-6	290	2	1-22-60	Texas	8

^{*}DeBerg played 12 games with Buccaneers in '87; DiGiacomo last active with Chargers in '86; Fields played 1 game with Colts, 5 with Chiefs in '87; Guthrie missed '87 season due to injury, last active with Chargers in '84; Harry missed '87 season due to injury; Hawkins played 2 games with Chargers in '87; Hill played 2 games with Raiders, 4 with Chiefs in '87; Keel played 3 games with Seahawks, 7 with Chiefs in '87; Monaco played 2 games with Packers in '87; Snipes played 2 games with Chargers, 4 with Chiefs in '87; Tupper played 4 games with Broncos, active for 1 game with Chiefs in '87, but did not play; Woodard played 3 games with Broncos, 5 with Chiefs in '87.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

The search is on for a quarterback to replace the retired Dan Fouts

By T.J. SIMERS
San Diego Union

Dieter Brock, wherever you are, stay by that telephone. Fact is, any man who has ever hurled a football farther than 20 yards may have credentials enough to join the cast of thousands already assembled by the San Diego Chargers to replace retired quarterback Dan Fouts:

- **Mark Malone.** The National Football League's lowest rated (46.7) passer last year, this former Pittsburgh Steeler has been compared to Magic Johnson and Bob Cousy as one of the great "bounce-passers" of all time.

- **Steve Fuller.** This former Chicago Bear hasn't thrown a pass since going 0 for 2 with an interception against Dallas on December 21, 1986. He missed the 1987 season with a shoulder injury.

- **Babe Laufenberg.** He has been in the NFL since 1983, but has yet to throw a pass in a regular-season game. He has been cut seven times, including once already by the Chargers, in his pro career.

- **Mike (Suitcase) Kelley.** Drafted and released by Atlanta in 1982, he played for Tampa Bay and Memphis in the United States Football League and Saskatchewan and Winnipeg in the Canadian Football League before completing 17 of 29 passes in three strike games last year for the Chargers.

- **Ed Rubbert.** A free agent signed by Washington Redskins and released after hitting 26 of 49 in three replacement-game starts.

- **Mark Vlasic.** The Chargers' fourth-round 1987 draft choice who completed three of six passes for eight yards during a blizzard in Denver's season finale. He played behind Chuck Long at Iowa and tossed only 208 passes in his college career.

Understandably, new offensive coordinator and former NFL quarterback Jerry Rhome has become a most important man in the Chargers' organization.

"It's a helluva challenge," Rhome said in making the understatement of the year. "It's wide open for the position."

"We're going to stress intelligence and toughness. I'm just going to coach the heck out of them and hope one or two of them emerge as our man." Rhome was quarterbacks coach of the Redskins last year and helped Doug Williams en route to his Super Bowl heroics.

Malone, 22-25 as a starter with the Steelers, has the early edge in the quarterback derby. The 6-foot-4, 222-pounder, who grew up 10 miles from Jack Murphy Stadium, is expected to anchor a new offensive scheme that will emphasize the ground game and a deep passing attack.

"People are not going to be able to sit on us at 20 yards and play real tough in



Lionel James, a 5-foot-6 running back, caught 41 passes last season after moving to wide receiver.

short areas like they did last year," said Steve Ortmayer, director of football operations.

Pivotal to that new philosophy are rookie receivers Anthony Miller of Tennessee (first round) and Quinn Early of Iowa (third). The Chargers, whose most productive wide receiver a year ago was Wes Chandler (39 catches), are counting on big first years from both players.

The addition of Miller and Early may even place Chandler's roster spot in jeopardy. The 31-year-old Chandler, the team's player rep, had just two touchdown receptions last year.

"Wes is going to have to battle for his job," said Chargers Coach Al Saunders, who may move speedy second-year player Jamie Holland (4.3 in the 40-yard dash) ahead of Chandler should Miller and Early live up to expectations.

Statistics indicate the Chargers have had the worst running attack in the league over the past two years. In 1986 they averaged 3.3 yards a carry and then went out and acquired Barry Redden from the Rams. The result? They averaged 3.3 yards a carry again last season and plummeted to the bottom of the AFC rushing charts with 1,308 yards.

"It's an area of urgent concern," said Saunders.

Lionel James, who was moved to wide receiver last season and caught 41 passes for 593 yards and three touchdowns, will

return to the backfield, joining Gary Anderson, Redden, Tim Spencer and Curtis Adams. Adams was the Chargers' leading rusher with a paltry 343 yards.

Anderson, the best player in that group and one of the most exciting in the game, has never run longer than 27 yards in his three years with the Chargers and has made only two receptions beyond 50 yards. Last year he gained 260 yards on 80 carries (3.3-yard average) and caught 47 passes for 503 yards.

"The ideal scheme for our team is to split the two (Miller and Early) speed receivers out, have a big, strong tight end who can block (Kellen Winslow), another tight end-type (Rod Bernstein) who can block, catch and run, one running back (Spencer, Redden or Adams) who can carry the ball 20 times a game and a quarterback (Malone or Vlasic) who has the ability to get the ball up the field," said Saunders.

"I think we've improved ourselves with the people we have brought in," said the coach, "but we're going to have to rely on our defense again this season."

Defense? Are these the San Diego Chargers we're talking about? A team that seemingly had to score 40 points to win a game in the early 1980s?

Yes. The Chargers, the league's perennial doormats on defense, finished 15th in the league last season for their finest showing in the '80s. Although they intercepted just 13 passes, the defense ranked fourth against the pass, surrendering 185.5 yards a game compared to 230.5 in 1986.

If the Chargers had a healthy Leslie O'Neal lined up at right defensive end, they would be well on their way to becoming one of the better units in the league. However, O'Neal has yet to recover from a knee injury suffered in November 1986, so the team will compensate with a variety of pass rushers.

Lee Williams (eight sacks in '87) makes the switch from the left to the right side, while Les Miller, Joe Phillips, Mike Charles, Terry Unrein and Chuck Ehin jockey for playing time along the line.

Chip Banks and Billy Ray Smith continue to represent one of the better outside linebacking packages in the league, but how long can they compensate for the weakness inside?

"It would be nice to add veteran help inside," said defensive coordinator Ron Lynn, who will be taking a long look at former Denver inside linebacker Steve Busick. "We're also still in need of a good cover corner."

Elvis Patterson and Gill Byrd return as the club's starting cornerbacks, while the safety positions appear secure with the likes of Vencie Glenn, Martin Bayless and Jeff Dale. Dale, the most consistent performer in the secondary in 1986, missed last season with a back injury.

The addition of designated pass rusher

Joe Campbell (New Mexico State) in the draft and the signing of cornerback Roy Bennett, who led the Canadian Football League last year with 13 interceptions, should be a big plus.

The Chargers are hoping for better returns from placekicker Vince Abbott, who attempted only two field goals when the Chargers were in the lead. In his first NFL season, the former rugby player connected on 13 of 22 field-goal attempts, but was only two of nine beyond 40 yards.

Punter Ralf Mojsiejenko earned his first Pro Bowl berth last season with a 42.9-yard average.

But will all of this be good enough to carry the Chargers, who likely will enter the season without a quality starting quarterback? And, if not, how long will it take before local fans become vocal in their demand for a top-notch successor to Fouts? ■

1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at Los Angeles Raiders	1:00
Sept. 11—at Denver	2:00
Sept. 18—SEATTLE	1:00
Sept. 25—at Kansas City	3:00
Oct. 2—DENVER	1:00
Oct. 9—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 16—at Miami	1:00
Oct. 23—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Oct. 30—at Seattle	1:00
Nov. 6—LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	5:00
Nov. 13—at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 20—at Los Angeles Rams	1:00
Nov. 27—SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 4—at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 11—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Dec. 18—KANSAS CITY	1:00

1987 RESULTS—(8-7)

Chargers	Opp.	Att.
13 Kansas City	20 (A)	56,940
28 St. Louis	24 (H)	47,988
Seattle	(H)	
10 Cincinnati	9 (A)	18,074
17 Tampa Bay	13 (A)	23,873
23 L.A. Raiders	17 (A)	23,541
42 Kansas City	21 (H)	47,972
27 Cleveland (OT)	24 (H)	55,381
16 Indianapolis	13 (A)	60,459
16 L.A. Raiders	14 (H)	60,639
3 Seattle	34 (A)	62,444
17 Denver	31 (H)	61,880
18 Houston	33 (A)	31,714
16 Pittsburgh	20 (H)	51,605
7 Indianapolis	20 (H)	46,211
0 Denver	24 (A)	21,189

*Game cancelled due to strike.

Italics denote strike replacement games.

1988 DRAFT CHOICES

Round and Player	Position	College
1. MILLER, Anthony	WR	Tennessee
2. Choice to L.A. Rams		
3. EARLY, Quinn	WR	Iowa
from L.A. Raiders through Houston		
3. Choice to Houston		
4. CAMPBELL, Joe	DE	New Mexico St.
from L.A. Rams		
4. SEARELS, Stacy	T	Auburn
from Buffalo		
4. RICHARDS, David	T	UCLA
5. Choice to Houston		
6. FIGARO, Cedric	LB	Notre Dame
7. Choice to Buffalo		
8. Choice to Pittsburgh		
9. HOWARD, Joey	T	Tennessee
10. Choice to N.Y. Giants		
11. MILLER, Ed	C	Pittsburgh
from L.A. Rams		
11. HINKLE, George	NT	Arizona
12. PHILLIPS, Wendell	DB	North Alabama



San Diego Chargers tight end Kellen Winslow.

1988 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birthdate	College	Games In '87
10	Abbott, Vince	K	5-11	206	2	5-31-59	Fullerton State	12
42	†Adams, Curtis	RB	5-11	194	3	4-30-62	Central Michigan	12
40	Anderson, Gary	RB	6-0	181	4	4-18-61	Arkansas	12
96	†Baldwin, Keith	DE	6-4	270	6	10-13-60	Texas A&M	6
56	†Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	236	7	9-18-59	Southern California	12
44	Bayless, Martin	S	6-2	200	5	11-11-62	Bowling Green	12
57	†Benson, Thomas	LB	6-2	235	5	9-6-61	Oklahoma	11
82	Bernstine, Rod	TE	6-3	235	2	2-8-65	Texas A&M	10
58	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	225	2	2-9-65	Memphis State	8
	Briehl, Tom	LB	6-3	247	3	9-8-62	Stanford	*3
	Brookins, Mitchell	WR	5-11	192	3	12-10-60	Illinois	*0
	Browner, Keith	LB	6-6	245	4	1-24-62	Southern California	*2
55	Busick, Steve	LB	6-4	227	8	12-10-58	Southern California	1
22	Byrd, Gill	CB/S	5-11	196	6	2-20-61	San Jose State	12
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	6-0	188	11	8-22-56	Florida	12
71	†Charles, Mike	NT	6-4	287	6	9-23-62	Syracuse	11
77	Claphan, Sam	G/T	6-6	288	8	10-10-56	Oklahoma	9
	Cox, Arthur	TE	6-2	262	6	2-5-61	Texas Southern	*12
37	Dale, Jeff	S	6-3	213	3	10-6-62	Louisiana State	*0
61	Dallafior, Ken	G	6-4	278	4	8-26-59	Minnesota	8
36	†Davis, Mike	S	6-3	205	10	4-15-56	Colorado	8
78	†Ehin, Chuck	NT	6-4	266	6	7-1-61	Brigham Young	12
	Feasel, Greg	T	6-7	301	3	11-7-57	Abilene Christian	3
70	FitzPatrick, James	G/T	6-7	286	3	2-1-64	Southern California	10
	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	198	9	1-5-57	Clemson	*0
25	Glenn, Vencie	S	6-0	187	3	10-26-64	Indiana State	12
	Greene, Danny	WR	5-11	190	2	12-26-61	Washington	*0
92	Hardison, Dee	DE	6-4	291	11	5-2-56	North Carolina	3
86	Holland, Jamie	WR	6-1	186	2	2-1-64	Ohio State	12
27	Hunter, Daniel	CB	5-11	178	4	9-1-62	Henderson State	12
52	Jackson, Jeffery	LB	6-1	230	4	10-9-61	Auburn	11
26	James, Lionel	WR	5-6	170	5	5-25-62	Auburn	12
	Johnson, Demetrious	S	6-0	196	6	7-21-61	Missouri	*3
10	Kelley, Mike	QB	6-3	195	2	12-31-59	Georgia Tech	3
	Keys, Tyrone	DE	6-7	267	7	10-24-59	Mississippi State	*5
94	Kirk, Randy	LB	6-2	235	2	12-27-64	San Diego State	13
68	Kowalski, Gary	G/T	6-6	273	5	7-2-60	Boston College	12
74	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	289	4	6-4-63	Ohio State	12
	Laufenberg, Babe	QB	6-2	195	4	12-5-59	Indiana	*0
62	Macek, Don	C	6-2	270	13	7-2-54	Boston College	11
	Malone, Mark	QB	6-4	224	9	11-22-58	Arizona State	12
60	McKnight, Dennis	C/G	6-3	270	7	9-12-59	Drake	12
69	Miller, Les	DE	6-7	285	2	3-1-65	Fort Hays State	9
	Moffett, Tim	WR	6-2	190	4	2-8-62	Mississippi	2
2	Mojsiejenko, Ralf	P	6-3	212	4	1-28-63	Michigan State	12
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	255	2	5-7-64	Oklahoma State	*0
34	Patterson, Elvis	CB	5-11	198	5	10-21-60	Kansas	*14
93	Pettitt, Duane	DE	6-4	265	2	11-2-64	San Diego State	3
75	†Phillips, Joe	DE	6-5	275	3	7-15-63	Southern Methodist	13
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	240	3	1-26-60	California	8
53	Price, Stacey	LB	6-2	194	2	3-3-62	Arkansas State	3
20	Redden, Barry	RB	5-10	219	7	7-21-60	Richmond	12
66	Rosado, Dan	G/T	6-3	280	2	7-6-59	Northern Illinois	4
79	Rouse, Curtis	G/T	6-3	340	7	7-13-60	Tennessee-Chattanooga	10
85	Sievers, Eric	TE	6-4	230	8	11-9-58	Maryland	12
54	Smith, Billy Ray	LB	6-3	236	6	8-10-61	Arkansas	12
43	†Spencer, Tim	RB	6-1	227	4	12-10-60	Ohio State	12
	Stadnik, John	C/G	6-4	265	2	2-18-60	Western Illinois	3
59	Taylor, John	LB	6-4	235	4	6-21-61	Hawaii	7
76	Thompson, Broderick	G/T	6-4	290	3	8-14-60	Kansas	8
98	Unrein, Terry	NT/DE	6-5	280	3	10-24-62	Colorado State	9
13	Vlasic, Mark	QB	6-3	206	2	10-25-63	Iowa	1
23	†Walters, Danny	CB	6-1	200	5	11-4-60	Arkansas	12
81	Ware, Timmie	WR	5-10	170	3	4-2-63	Southern California	12
84	Williams, Al	WR	5-10	180	2	2-4-62	Nevada-Reno	3
	Williams, Kevin	CB	5-9	169	2	11-28-61	Iowa State	*0
99	†Williams, Lee	DE	6-5	263	5	10-15-62	Bethune-Cookman	12
72	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-4	268	2	9-10-64	Louisiana State	7
80	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	251	10	11-5-57	Missouri	12
97	†Winter, Blaise	NT	6-3	274	4	1-31-62	Syracuse	3
33	Zachary, Ken	RB	6-0	222	2	11-19-63	Oklahoma State	3

*Briehl played 3 games with Oilers in '87; Brookins last active with Bills in '85; Browner played 1 game with 49ers and 1 game with Raiders in '87; Cox played 12 games with Falcons in '87; Dale and O'Neal missed '87 season due to injury; Fuller missed '87 season with Bears due to injury; Greene last active with Seahawks in '85 and inactive for 3 games with Chargers in '87; Johnson played 3 games with Dolphins in '87; Keys played 5 games with Buccaneers in '87; Laufenberg active for 1 game with Redskins in '87, but did not play; Patterson played 1 game with Giants, 13 with Chargers in '87; K. Williams last active with Bills in '86.

†Option payout; subject to developments.

Retired—Dan Fouts, 16-year quarterback, 11 games in '87.

STRIKING RE

Looking back at the strike-induced replacement games that marred the 1987 National Football League season, it is possible to smile. But there wasn't anything funny about the situation when league management decided to play the schedule with anyone willing to wear a uniform.

Several Kansas City Chiefs players greeted first-day strikebreakers with shotguns. Though they said it was done only in jest, television cameras rolled and viewers were left to wonder. Chiefs linebacker Jack Del Rio followed that up by getting into a fight with team scout Otis Taylor, admitting later that he didn't know Taylor was one of the best receivers in football history.

Washington Redskins defensive tackle Darryl Grant cracked a window on a bus carrying replacement players. Not surprisingly, the Chiefs and Redskins were two of the more unified teams during the 24-day strike.

The players who agreed to play were a mixture of borderline veterans and fantasizers who wanted to take their one crack at big-time sports. For those who made it, the memories will never fade.

Los Angeles Rams strength coach Cullen Bryant hadn't played an NFL game since 1984, but he donned a uniform one more time. Said Rams guard Dennis Harrah, "It's so sick, it makes you laugh."

Danny DeRose, a replacement linebacker for the New York Giants, quit his job as an economics professor at the Uni-

versity of Southern Colorado to play. "I might be giving away a lot," DeRose said.

In Atlanta, linebacker Joe Costello talked about the crossing of the picket line by injured rookie wide receiver Bruce Walker, saying, "He's one of those guys you wouldn't want to have on your team because he's not in that teamwork thing. He's out for himself and nobody else." Costello, who carried a picket sign that said, "The only good scab is a dead scab," subsequently crossed the picket line himself.

The games themselves had their highs and lows.

In a 35-3 loss to the Chicago Bears October 4, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Guido Merkens was sacked 10 times, rushed three times for minus eight yards, had a punt blocked for a touchdown, passed for a nine-yard loss from punt formation, suffered an injury and had his name misspelled on his jersey ("Merkins").

"If it wasn't so embarrassing, it would have been fun," he said.

Cleveland running back Larry Mason was signed two days before the Browns' October 4 game against New England and rushed 32 times for 133 yards. Washington Redskins wide receiver Anthony Allen signed the same day as Mason and caught seven passes for a club-record 255 yards in a win over St. Louis. Cincinnati quarterbacks Adrian Breen and Dave Walter combined to complete five of 10 passes for 10 yards in a loss to San Diego.

Said Bengals Coach Sam Wyche, "Honest to goodness, we did not work at all this week on throwing incomplete passes."

Giants replacement player Reggie Carr was caught by ABC cameras in a Monday night game against San Francisco apparently asleep. "I wasn't dozing off," Carr claimed. "I was tired. In a way, I was tired of losing."

On the other hand, veterans who crossed picket lines put up some gaudy numbers. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Gary Hogeboom passed for 241 of his 259 yards in the first half of a 47-6 win over Buffalo.

Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent and quarterback Jeff Kemp reported four days before an October 18 game against Detroit and had a field day. Largent caught six passes for 116 yards and three touchdowns in the game's first 11½ minutes. He finished with a team-record 15 receptions for 261 yards and didn't play the final 18½ minutes.

Cleveland quarterback Gary Danielson completed 25 of 31 passes for 281 yards and four touchdowns in a 34-0 victory over Cincinnati October 18. Said Danielson, "It was like pitch and catch after a while. It was like a preseason game."

It was more than that, however, for many would-be football stars. The following vignettes tell the stories of a select few who took timeout from their everyday lives and responsibilities to fulfill a dream. Some did, some didn't. But they all gave it their best shot. ■

Darryl Baines: He Was So Close and Yet So Far

By JOHN CLAYTON
Tacoma News Tribune

One Sunday afternoon in the Seattle Seahawks locker room spoiled Darryl Baines for life.

For someone who has had so much go wrong, the experience seemed so right. Momentarily erased were the four years he had spent in correctional camps for a robbery conviction he thought was unjust. He was a Seattle Seahawks halfback, preparing for a replacement game against the Miami Dolphins. The present purged the past.

Baines stepped toward his locker only to hear bad news. A Seattle coach told him that he wouldn't be dressing for this game, that two backs signed less than 72 hours before kickoff—Ricky Parros and Michael Morton—had bumped him from the game.

"I was shocked," Baines said. "If only I

had played one play of one game..."

Baines' first thought was that his criminal record had tripped him up. It didn't. Instead, Seahawks Coach Chuck Knox weighed Baines' record-setting performances in minor league football against the accomplishments of two veterans of pro campaigns.

As if adding salt to a wound, Baines stood on the sideline during the game in street clothes and watched as Parros had to stay in the game after cracking an elbow. The Seahawks didn't have backfield depth. Baines knew that his chance of a lifetime had just passed him by. There was nothing he could do about it.

"With one play, anything could have happened," Baines said. "I was ready. I don't think anybody would have stopped me. I don't think anybody on the field would have done nowhere as good as I would have."

The hunger hasn't left the 28-year-old



Darryl Baines watched helplessly as his dream was shattered.

SEMBLANCE

Baines. As he reflects on his life, he isn't sure why it went wrong, but he knows that he's worked hard enough to make it right. Instead of pouting, he spends his day laying sheet rock and his nights lifting weights and waiting for another minor-league football season.

Baines' story is one of close calls. He was an all-star receiver at Lincoln High in Tacoma who didn't have the grades to immediately attend the Pacific-10 schools that sought his talents. Shortly after celebrating his 21st birthday, he made the biggest mistake of his life.

He informed a friend about some merchandise hidden in a building. When his friend was arrested for robbery, Baines said, he named him as the mastermind. Scared and confused, Baines said he pleaded guilty, believing that a first-time offender wouldn't serve time. Mistakes compounded more mistakes, and he ended up serving four years. He entered as a troubled 185-pound youngster. He departed a 212-pound man.

"I didn't bother with anybody in there," Baines said. "All I did was lift weights. I spent all my time playing basketball and going to the weight room."

His brother, Ron, coached a successful minor league team (the Auburn Panthers)

that was one halfback away from being a national champion. At 6-1, 212 pounds and with 4.5 speed, Baines accepted the challenge.

"He told me we could win a national championship with me at halfback," Baines said. "I said, 'Ron, I'm a wide receiver.'"

As it turned out, Baines was a great minor league running back who averaged 96 yards per game. The task was simple. He would rush for his 100 yards and rest. It was almost too easy. He had so much more ability than his competition. So did his team. The Auburn Panthers beat the Chicago Cowboys to win the 1986 minor-league national championship.

"In some of the playoff games, we would have our team, but our opponents would have the top players in their leagues on their teams," Baines said. "There would also be a lot of people going for your knees and taking late shots at you."

Because the Seahawks were among the last teams to hire replacement players, they recruited several minor leaguers. Baines became a first-round draft choice. For his first week of practice, he was the first-string halfback.

"Darryl is like the Ron LeFlore of foot-

ball," Auburn Panthers General Manager Mike Highsmith said. "He just needed a break. It's a great story."

Baines felt comfortable wearing a Seahawks uniform. On a couple of plays during his first day, he ran over a couple of linebackers who had played with the Seahawks. He felt he was the fastest and strongest among Seahawk replacement backs.

"I was surprised when I didn't play that first game, and then I was cut," Baines said. "Coach Knox told me that it was a numbers game. But it was the first time in my life that I had ever been cut from anything. It was the first time I had ever played second team."

After his release, Baines returned to the Auburn Panthers, who once again were involved in a national championship game. They played a team from San Jose, Calif., and had the lead and the football going into the final two minutes. A fumble near San Jose's goal line and a touchdown drive ended the Panthers' 50-game winning streak and championship defense.

Baines was stunned. Once again, he was so close, yet so far. He sits by his phone waiting for somebody in the pros to call. Just one workout. Just one play. That's all he wants. ■

Former Teacher Keith Bishop Turned His Dream Into an \$18,475 Windfall

By CURT BROWN
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Yes, indeed, there was a winner in last season's silly football strike. His name is Keith Bishop.

He's a friendly, auburn-haired young guy from Chicago who turned a couple of ugly labor disputes into a crisp \$18,475.

When the National Football League's 1987 season started, Bishop was among the multitude of Chicago teachers on strike. When that strike was finally settled, Bishop lost his teaching job at an inner-city high school.

He didn't need unemployment compensation, though. Just a journey into the coffers of the NFL.

Bishop wandered 400 miles up Interstate 94 to try out for the Minnesota Vikings replacement team. He had done a little semi-pro quarterbacking and figured, what the heck! It beat walking the picket line back in Chicago.

Minnesota was the last team to assemble a so-called scab team. The Viking braintrust thought they had a pretty good team and figured it would be a short strike. They didn't want to alienate their real players.

Eventually, however, they were forced to field a replacement team. And by then, pickings were slim. Real slim. We're talking bottom of the barrel. We're talking Keith Bishop.

Tommy Kramer he wasn't. Tommy Kramer's locker he used, though. Bishop became the Vikings' third-string replacement quarterback, two rungs below Tony Adams on the depth chart.

Adams, the Vikings' top replacement gun, was 37 years old after once having played for the Kansas City Chiefs. For the last six years, however, he had played nothing but touch football.

Adams' front line included a janitor named Rudy Olson and an orderly at the Mayo Clinic. No real players crossed the line and Rufus Bess, a journeyman defensive back, was the replacement team's biggest name.

So, not surprisingly, the Viking replacement players finished 0-3 in the bizarre strike season. As for Bishop, he never played a down. Never took a snap. Never got his borrowed purple jersey soiled.

He did, however, fatten his wallet by the aforementioned 18 grand. First, there were the three \$3,125 checks, which amounted to one-sixteenth of the mini-

mum NFL salary.

Then, there was the playoff bonanza. Thanks to the real Vikings' victories in the wild-card game in New Orleans and the next playoff game in San Francisco, Bishop earned \$9,000, or half the \$18,000 playoff share the real guys earned.

"I got more for my money than anyone," Bishop said with the glee of one who beat the system. "I didn't play a down in three weeks for a team that didn't win a game. I don't know if strange is the right word, but it's certainly a bonus I didn't expect."

And a bonus he needed once his teaching job vanished. After all, \$18,475 can go a long way for an unemployed school teacher.

"It's more than I would have made teaching an entire year," Bishop said. "I've been traveling coast-to-coast with the money and the free time."

Several of the real Vikings, however, didn't find Bishop's get-rich-quick scheme amusing. In all, 35 replacement Vikings earned \$315,000 of playoff booty.

"On the one hand, I'm pretty upset about it considering what a horrible job

Continued

Keith Bishop

they did going 0-3 and trying to weaken our union," said tight end Steve Jordan, the team's union representative. "On the other hand, it kind of lets you know the owners were crying wolf when they contended some of our demands cost too much."

Running back Darrin Nelson only shakes his head. At first, he didn't mind Bishop crossing the line.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't mind them coming in here and playing for us because it was their one big shot to make it in football," Nelson said. "But to share in something we sacrificed for doesn't seem fair to me. They put us in a hole we almost didn't get out of. It ended up not affecting us, but their contribution could have been devastating."

If St. Louis had not blown its season finale against Dallas, the Vikings wouldn't have made the playoffs, let alone beat the Saints and 49ers.

"They're not taking nothing out of my pockets, but they accomplished nothing and now are realizing the fruits of our labor," tackle Tim Irwin said.

Some real Vikings, however, consider Bishop a hero.

"I guess the scabs were the only ones who beat (General Manager) Mike Lynn," Pro Bowl tackle Gary Zimmerman said. "They didn't win a ball game but get all the profits."

And you thought there were no winners in this strike. ■

Houston Assembled an Unlikely Crew Of Would-Be Replacement Characters

By JOHN McCLAIN
Houston Chronicle

The cast of characters who assembled for the Houston Oilers' first practice during the players' strike could have come right out of a Hollywood sit-com.

They weren't exactly butchers, bakers and candlestick makers who answered the Oilers' SOS, but this odd mixture of hopefuls, has-beens and players with National Football League experience was looking to capitalize on the strike.

When the Oilers took the field for the first "replacement" workout, this band of merry men included an opera singer, a prison guard, a pro wrestler, a karate expert, a construction worker and a receiver who was supposed to be legally dead.

"It was an experience I'll never forget," says Eugene Seale, an inside linebacker who gave up his job of operating a jackhammer on a construction project. "What we accomplished is something I can look back on with pride and tell my grandkids."

Seale was one of the fortunate replacements. He was named the AFC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance in a 40-10 strike victory over Denver and finished the season on the team's roster. He is trying to win another spot this season. Most of the others weren't as lucky.

Take receiver Matt Conerly, for instance. A third-degree black belt, the 5-foot-9 Conerly gave up training for the Olympic karate team to try out with the Oilers. He wasn't around long, but he did make an impression.

After one morning practice, Conerly grew tired of listening to the striking players taunt the replacements from a railroad track that ran the length of the practice field.

Conerly challenged about 15 veterans. Though a fence separated Conerly from the strikers, he threatened to rearrange their knees with specially placed karate kicks.

Conerly was only one of several intriguing stories. Receiver Sam Moore, another who didn't last long, had been declared legally dead, according to Coach Jerry Glanville. When Moore showed up and

ran a few routes, Glanville wasn't impressed.

"Now I know why he was supposed to be dead," Glanville joked.

The Oilers had the wrong Sam Moore, or the right one, depending on your point of view. They also had a lineman named Charles Agee, who worked as a guard on Death Row in Huntsville, Tex.

"At least now when Agee goes home and tells somebody he'll see him tomorrow, he knows he'll see him tomorrow," Glanville said.

One of the more entertaining replacements was Doug Kellermeyer, a guard who had been with the Oilers during a

previous training camp. Kellermeyer owns an auto-parts company in Phoenix, but he moonlights as an opera singer, an impressive one at that.

Owner Bud Adams, who never attends a regular Oiler practice, showed up one Sunday afternoon to watch his replacements work out.



Eugene Seale gave up his job on a construction crew to earn AFC Defensive Player of the Week honors.

Afterward, Kellermeyer serenaded Adams in grand operatic fashion.

Safety Craig Birdsong couldn't sing, but he could wrestle well enough to be named top gun of his pro wrestling school. "Cowboy Craig" gave up the wrestling circuit to chase his life-long dream to play pro football.

"I've been an underdog all my life, and my parents always thought I had pipe dreams," Birdsong says. "I just knew I could play pro football if I got a chance."

Birdsong got his chance and made the most of it.

"I was on the wrestling circuit, but when the Oilers called, it didn't take long for me to decide I had to give it a shot," he says. "Some people told me I was setting myself up for a big letdown, but I can always wrestle when I get older."

Birdsong's dream became reality. He impressed the coaches during the strike and remained on the team through the end of the season, seeing special-team duty in Houston's playoff loss to Denver. Like Eugene Seale, Birdsong is trying to win a spot on the roster again.

"I could make more money on the wrestling circuit," Birdsong says, "but



Craig Birdsong, alias Cowboy Craig, professional wrestler, answered Houston's SOS and saw duty on the Oilers' special teams.

money isn't everything.

"I'm determined to prove to myself that I can do it again. Besides, if I can do well and make a name for myself in football, it'll help me when I get back into wrestling."

Even if such replacement players as Birdsong and Seale don't make the Oilers roster again, they will always occupy a unique spot in Houston's football history. ■

When the 49ers Called, Heavyweight Pizza Man Limbo Parks Delivered

By TOM FITZGERALD
San Francisco Chronicle

In a dorm room at the University of Arkansas, an erstwhile 49er with the unforgettable name of Limbo Parks gazes at autographed photos of his former teammates—Joe Montana, Dwight Clark, Roger Craig and Jeff Fuller.

"Three or four of them will be in the Hall of Fame someday," Parks said.

A slimmed-down Parks is still working toward a degree in criminal justice. The 6-foot-2 offensive lineman is down to 270 pounds, about 25 fewer than his "heyday" in San Francisco.

His only regret about the three games he played during the strike was "I was carrying too much extra weight."

It seems only fitting that the 49ers recruited this heavyweight out of a pizza parlor in Fayetteville, Ark. The former two-time All-Southwest Conference guard was making \$4 an hour delivering pizzas when summoned to San Francisco.

"My pizza days are over," he says, "unless hard times come."

Parks has been invited to the 49ers' training camp. The club already appears overstocked on its offensive line, but Parks doesn't mind. "Let me see if I can make the team legitimately," he said.

However legitimate, or illegitimate, the strike games were, Parks will always be able to brag about how he played a role in the 49ers' 13-2 record, the best in the National Football League, last season. Although he didn't start, he played the second half of the first two strike games and

saw special-teams duty in the third. The 49ers won all three games (the latter two with the help of a dozen veterans like Montana, Clark, Craig and Fuller), and the momentum they gathered during the strike eventually carried them to the NFC West title.

The high point in the brief NFL career of Limbo Parks came in Atlanta when he pulled out for a sweep and found a defensive back to bury. "My weight was keeping me from really going, but I tore the DB up, and the back ran for 20 yards," he said proudly.

Parks said he was surprised by just one thing in the NFL: He didn't know it was an all-day job. "I didn't realize you go from 8 to 4, I really didn't," he said. "I thought maybe you'd work four hours and go home."

He doesn't regret working while most of the regular NFL players were on strike. "It was a bad situation all-around, but a good one for me," he said. "It was fun. I had a great time. I think Bill Walsh is a great coach. He's a creative coach and makes it fun. His game plans are fun."

Limbo's real given name is Lemuel. "My mother used to bounce me on her lap and call me Limbo, I don't know why," he said. "I like it because, when I was a kid, Lemuel was too hard to pronounce."

Nobody is going to bounce Parks on anything now. Someday a fugitive from the law is going to regret the day he ran into him.

"It would be nice to be a cop. I'd like to be on the vice squad. It's more exciting than anything else. I'd like to be in a big

city. San Francisco? That would be great. There's not too much crime in Fayetteville.

"I'm not a person who can sit behind a desk all day. I don't like to sit around."

One thing about Parks that future employers should know, he's usually on the winning side. The Razorbacks were 10-2 and 9-3 in his two seasons after transferring from a junior college. And, of course, he's unbeaten as a pro.

Had it not been for an agent whom Parks now calls "a good liar," he thinks he might have been drafted last year. Instead, he didn't even get a shot as a free agent. He switched agents, but by then, Parks said, it was too late.

He was afraid that pro scouts felt he couldn't control his weight. He had quit school and wasn't around the campus when scouts arrived to time and test the prospects. As part of one of his current courses, he's writing a paper on sports agents, entitled "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."

When the 49ers lost to the Vikings in the playoffs, Parks lost a potential windfall. If the 49ers had gone on to win the Super Bowl, he would have received a half-share of the conference and Super Bowl money. Owner Ed DeBartolo Jr. had made that promise to the strike players as a gesture of gratitude.

Parks wasn't upset that Anthony Carter and the Vikings kept him from the big bucks.

"I wasn't out there. You can't ask for somebody to give you something. You can't cry over it." ■

The Minister Of Defense

By PHIL ANASTASIA
Camden Courier-Post

Reggie White plays football with power, with passion and with purpose.

White deals in disruption and destruction. From his post on the Philadelphia Eagles defensive line, White rips through blockers and brings the brunt of his 285-pound frame to bear on rival ballcarriers.

"If I get the chance to hit somebody, I'm going to hit them," White says. "I'm not going to let up on anybody. Intimidation is part of this game. That's the way it's meant to be played."

Off the field, White preaches with the same power, the same passion and the same sense of purpose.

He quotes scripture. He says the team prayer before and after every game. He maintains a ministry, and keeps alive a fervent hope for a better world.

"I want to reach, to touch, to help as many people as I can," White says. "This world, there's so much to be done, so many people that need help. Jesus is in me, and I want to bring Him to them."

On the field—pressure, strength and intimidation.

Off the field—peace, love and understanding.

At first glance, White seems to be a contradiction in cleats. But within the apparent paradox—in the constant conflict between the nature of his profession and the tenets of his religion—White finds the secret to his success.

"I don't know where people get the idea that Christians are supposed to be chumps," White says. "I don't understand that. If God was a chump, He wouldn't have been able to do everything that He did. He wouldn't have been able to make us.

"If God was a chump, He wouldn't be able to destroy this world if He wanted to. God's not a chump...

"A lot of people look at what I do and say, 'That's not Christian.' A lot of people think that being a Christian means you've got to be a wimp. I think Christians should be the toughest athletes in the world. I think we should go all out at all times.

"I don't go out to hurt anybody. But I play hard and I play the game the way it's supposed to be played."

There is little question that White plays football like few men before him. Eagles Coach Buddy Ryan calls White "the best defensive lineman I've ever been



Philadelphia defensive lineman Reggie White approaches life with a strong sense of purpose, whether playing football or quoting scripture.

around."

It's simple to understand Ryan's raves. In less than three full seasons in the NFL, White has 52 sacks. He was named the NFC's top defensive rookie in 1985, and was a starter in the Pro Bowl in both 1986 and '87.

Last season, White emerged as one of the best players in the game. He set an NFC record with 21 sacks, one short of the NFL record set in 1984 by Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets.

But Gastineau played 16 games. White, like most NFL veterans, played in only 12 games because of the players' strike.

"The Good Lord gave him everything," Ryan said. "I've never been around a guy who's that big and runs 4.6 (over 40 yards). He's got the whole package."

"He's the best I've ever seen," Eagles defensive tackle Mike Pitts said. "The size, the strength, the speed. He's got everything. He never lets up, either. That's the thing, he's relentless."

The size (6-foot-5, 285). The strength. The speed. The tangible reasons for White's success are obvious.

What can't be measured is his inner strength, his drive and determination. White wants to be the best. Not for now. Forever.

"I want people to say I was the best who ever played the game," White said. "I want them to say I was the best to play the position. Not to brag about it, but because I had a God that lives in me, and through His power I became the best."

There's no separating White from his religion. His spirituality, he says, is the source of his strength, of his success. Further, his success is critical to his mission, which is to spread the word of the Lord.

Football, faith.

Faith, football.

"Reggie is very serious about his faith," Eagles wide receiver Mike Quick said. "It's not a show. He's true to his word."

"Reggie is loyal to the Lord," Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham said. "He's not like Jim Bakker or Jimmy Swaggert or anybody like that. He's no hypocrite."

White is well aware of the material world, however. He was at the center of a storm of controversy last year over reported violations of NCAA rules during his career at the University of Tennessee. During the off-season, White engaged in a bitter contract dispute with Eagles Owner Norman Braman, despite the fact that his current deal runs through the 1988 season.

At one point, White issued a public statement questioning Braman's "commitment" to winning. Braman responded by noting that White is scheduled to make more than \$500,000 this year.

"My purpose is not to try and break the bank," White said. "My purpose (for seeking a new contract) is not only for Reggie White, but for Reggie White's family. Not only for my family, but also for my ministry."

White is a licensed Baptist minister who resides in the off-season in Sewell, N.J. He has preached in more than 100 churches of all denominations. One day, he plans to devote full attention to his ministry. For now, though, football gives him a platform.

"When I'm through and people say, 'That's Reggie White, he was the best,' then people will listen to me," White says. "This game means role models to me. This game is a platform to be used."

Eagles tight end John Spagnola talks of White's ability to "see through things." White emerged at Spagnola's side during the players' strike last season, rallying his teammates against the owners.

"He may appear to be a complicated person," Spagnola says of White, "but he's not. In many ways, he's a simple man. He sees things very clearly. He cuts through things and sees them for what they are."

White studies people and issues. He's thoughtful. He refuses to compete in the NFL's Lineman of the Year contest for a simple reason: It's sponsored by a beer company.

"They're trading money for lives,"



Reggie White, a licensed Baptist minister, is known around football circles as one of the top defensive players in the game.

White says. "They say, 'Don't drink and drive.' That's a compromise. I don't want my name associated with it."

"I want to try to save the lives of young people."

White is not all fire and brimstone, passion and purpose. He is perhaps the most playful athlete in the Eagles' locker room, a regular card who specializes in imitations of Elvis Presley and Muhammad Ali.

He's been known to grab any player, any time, and wrestle him to the ground. Nothing works him up like pro wrestling on the locker-room television. He'll sneak up behind an unsuspecting reporter, and send said scribe into the air with a loud imitation of a barking dog.

"He'll grab the microphone on the bus and imitate somebody, and it's obvious that he can see into the person," Spagnola said. "There's a burning competitive desire on his part to be great. But there's also a little kid inside that big man's body."

"I think the great thing about Reggie is that he's got everything in order," Quick said. "But even though he's serious about his faith, his family, things like that, he does almost everything in fun. He can make light of anything."

"He's a great influence on the young guys around here because he's shown them you can be in the limelight, have the so-called glory, and still do things in the

right way. And have fun in the process."

White was a consensus All-America at Tennessee and played two seasons with the Memphis Showboats of the United States Football League before joining the Eagles in September 1985. The Eagles acquired his rights in the 1984 supplemental draft, after quarterback Steve Young (Tampa Bay), running back Mike Rozier (Houston) and offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman (New York Giants) were selected.

In White's first game, he registered 2½ sacks and deflected a pass that was returned for a touchdown. He finished with 13 sacks in 13 games, despite already having played 20 games that spring for Memphis.

In 1986, White blossomed into a Pro Bowl player. He set a team record with 18 sacks, and he was named MVP of the Pro Bowl after recording four more sacks.

But last season was something special. White was a huge, charismatic figure. On one memorable play, he stole the football from Washington quarterback Doug Williams and rambled 70 yards for a touchdown. He had two or more sacks in five of the 10 games after the strike, despite constant double- and triple-team blocking.

"My job is to go out and have fun," White said. "I know I can use this game as a way to share Christ. I want the world to know that God ain't a punk." ■

THE IVY LEAGUE

Connection

Only Select Few Make The Grade

By BOB DIDDLEBOCK
Free-lance Writer

It was April 1982 and Yale linebacker Jeff Rohrer was in his room studying for a final exam when the telephone rang.

"The guy at the other end of the line said he was Gil Brandt of the Dallas Cowboys and that they had just drafted me on the second round," Rohrer recalls. "I thought it was someone playing a practical joke."

But after a short chat, Rohrer decided it was no prank. And when some friends showed up with champagne and a keg of beer a few hours later, the celebration was on. After a night of partying, Rohrer convinced his professor to excuse him from his final, which was just about the only academic break he ever got at Yale, one of the world's best colleges known more for its contributions to law, government and medicine than the National Football League.

Indeed, it's not every day that an Ivy League player is drafted and handed a prime opportunity to make the roster of "America's Team." But that's what Rohrer did during the rookie year of a career now moving into its seventh season.

"When I was a kid watching pro football on television, the players were so intangible on the screen; they all seemed so big and fast," says the 6-foot-2, 227-pounder. "It's a mirage—you don't think it's there, and you don't think you'll ever get a chance to touch it."

"Now, most of my friends are into other things, but I'm happy doing what I'm doing. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance, so I figure I'll get my shot at the business world or something else later on."

Over the years, the NFL's Ivy League roll call has been small, peppered with some illustrious and some not-so-illustrious names like Calvin Hill, Ed Marinaro, George Starke, Mike Pyle, Rich Diana, Pat McNally, Chuck Mercein, John Dockery, Dick Jauron and Marty Domres, among others.

Last year, 10 Ivy Leaguers were listed on NFL rosters. They ranged from stars like Rohrer, placekicker Nick Lowery of the Kansas City Chiefs, safety Kenny Hill of the Giants and tight end Steve Jordan of the Vikings to hopefuls like defensive back Eugene Profit of the New England Patriots, lineman Tom McHale of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and quarterback Jeff Kemp of the Seattle Seahawks.

Then there were the veterans nearing the end of distinguished careers, like now-retired defensive back Gary Fencik of the Chicago Bears, linebacker Reggie Williams of the Cincinnati Bengals and tight end John Spagnola of the Philadelphia Eagles.

All of them have something that injuries, management decisions or a football's fickle bounce can't take from them: The schooling of a lifetime, which can be quite a security blanket in a league where careers last an average of 3.1 years.

"My education has always been a source of relief to me in that I wouldn't always have to play football to make a living," says Spagnola, a 1980 Yale political science graduate. "It takes a lot of pressure off of you. A lot of other players don't have those options."

As the 33-year-old Williams, who gradu-

ated with a psychology degree in 1976, puts it, "Dartmouth taught me to seek knowledge and conquer it. I felt there was nothing I was incapable of becoming if I put the time and effort into it."

Spagnola, Williams and their Ivy brethren entered the NFL at a disadvantage, having come from programs that schedule only 10 games a year and hold one-day spring practices. There's no freshman eligibility, no redshirting and no athletic scholarships. Odds are that when there's some extra money, their schools spend it to upgrade their libraries instead of the athletic department's weight room.

Ivy Leaguers traditionally face the skepticism of coaches and teammates who doubt their toughness and view them as pointy-headed intellectuals in a game that values brawn over brains. Indeed, Brandt, the mastermind behind the Cowboys' successful drafts over the years, says an Ivy League player can be up to two years behind the typical rookie in physical development. And the mental demands, at least on the field, can be an entirely new and alien ball game.

To add insult to injury, pro players from the Ivy say they also catch static from skeptical classmates who often wonder aloud why top-shelf educations are being wasted on such a brutish sport.

That's not to say Ivy Leaguers are totally defenseless when they come to the pro game. They do bring a somewhat larger view of the world, as well as discipline, smarts and, above all, self-confidence. Fencik, for example, was cut by his first team, the Miami Dolphins; Spagnola was let go by the Patriots, and Lowery was cut or waived five times before latching on with the Chiefs in 1980 and developing into one of the most prolific kickers in NFL history.

For the most part, however, Ivy Leaguers are heavy underdogs, throwaway draft choices, free agents or "projects" who must overcome long odds to make it in a game dominated by the studs from Nebraska, Oklahoma and other hard-core football factory schools.

According to George Young, the New York Giants' general manager, "Ivy League players are from an accelerated academic program, not an accelerated athletic program, so if they make it to the pros, they have a long way to go. But sometimes a smarter guy can close that athletic talent gap."

Rohrer, a blond-headed Californian who was all-Ivy as a senior, had worked out for the Cowboys and Eagles before the



Eagles tight end John Spagnola, an eight-year NFL veteran, says football at Yale was fun, not a job.

1982 draft, but figured he wouldn't go before the sixth round. As it turned out, the only Yale ever to be selected higher than Rohrer was Calvin Hill, a first-round Cowboys' draft choice in 1969 who Brandt says "was so exceptionally talented and highly motivated that he would've been a star no matter where he played."

"A lot of people laughed at us when we drafted Jeff on the second round, but we knew what kind of person he was," said Brandt, who remembers a running back from the University of Pennsylvania named Fred Doelling on his first Cowboys squad in 1960. "Rohrer had size, strength and intelligence. He ran a 4.65 40-yard dash. We knew he was a great athlete, as well as a great competitor. There's no question that motivation and intelligence are two of his key qualities."

Indeed, this 29-year-old linebacker's outlook on life is a bit different than that of your standard-issue, football-factory player. At various times, Rohrer, who has been known to sport an earring and a rat's-tail haircut, has mused about becoming a potter, an actor, a baseball writer or a businessman. And he certainly isn't afraid to speak his mind. After Dallas lost last season's opener to the St. Louis Cardinals, he let loose: "We played like a bunch of lifeless drones. If we keep this up, we won't win a game all year. I feel like puking right here."

That's not the kind of language you're likely to hear around Yale's leafy campus in New Haven, Conn. But Rohrer says he wasn't your typical, button-down Ivy Leaguer, either.

"I was a self-exiled outcast," he recalls. "I didn't have a lot of money, other than the \$25 a week that my grandfather would send me for pizza and beer. There were a lot of rich kids there. I'm from California, and I'd wear my shorts and T-shirts. That didn't fit in with the Izod and Topsiders crowd."

Still, he wouldn't trade the experience for all the quarterback sacks in Texas.

"There's such a broad expanse of humanity (at Yale) and it's not confined to the classroom," he explains. "You've got kids who grew up with nothing in the ghetto to kids whose parents own multinational corporations; then, you have kids from Middle America, kids from the East, West, North and South, France and everywhere else."

"You couldn't help but learn from that. It gave you a sense of what's going on. It was a very humbling experience and probably one of the things that so far in my life I'm most happy with."

"They don't cut anyone any breaks at Yale. There are no special tutors. You're a student like everyone else. If we told coach (Carmen) Cozza that we had a test the next day or had a paper to do, he'd excuse us from practice."

"I wish all kids going to school now had the opportunity to learn like I did. I see a lot of kids coming out now with nothing, and I think that's the university's fault or the coaches' fault. You shouldn't take a kid just because he's an athlete and not give him an education."



Yale linebacker Jeff Rohrer was surprised when he got the draft-day call from Dallas Cowboys executive Gil Brandt.

and that meant a lot of off-season conditioning drills and weight lifting after signing with the Patriots.

Heading into his rookie camp in 1979 after being selected on the draft's ninth round, Spagnola was ready: "It wasn't anything I didn't expect because I had seen the movie 'Brian's Song' and had read George Plimpton's book 'Paper Lion.' My hazing mostly consisted of having to sing the Yale fight song—"bulldog, bulldog, bow wow wow"—until I was blue in the face, but it helped me fit in."

Nonetheless, he faced long odds because the Pats had Don Hasselbeck and Russ Francis at tight end. Spagnola says he knew how to work against a zone defense, run disciplined routes and follow the complex playbook. But his blocking needed work, and when he asked for help, veterans Francis and guard John Hannah came to his rescue.

Other Ivy rookies haven't been so lucky.

Kenny Hill, a molecular biophysics major at Yale, was drafted by the Oakland Raiders in 1980. His first camp included a head-first dunking in a garbage can filled with ice water. He also was flung into a swimming pool—not a great experience for someone who can't swim.

Williams recalls his first Bengal training camp in 1976 as "welcome to the land of the giants." To catch up, he hit the Nau-

After playing on special teams his first two years in Dallas, Rohrer, who describes himself as a "good, solid over-achiever who hits people and doesn't make a lot of mistakes," cracked the Cowboys' starting lineup in 1985.

"The mental part of the game is exhilarating," he says. "As a linebacker, I have to mesh the defensive line and the secondary. Then, there's the physical part. It's like doing algebra and getting in a fist-fight at the same time. It's fantastic to be challenged physically while having to sort out the variables and changes."

He says the biggest difference between collegiate and pro ball centers on expectations. In college, it's just a game; in the pros, it's a make-it-or-else proposition.

Spagnola, the 31-year-old Eagles tight end heading into his ninth NFL season, remembers Ivy League football as "fun and competitive, not anything like playing at Nebraska where playing football becomes a job at 17. That can't be fun."

At Yale, Spagnola hauled in 88 career receptions for 1,554 yards, made the all-conference team and won several honorable mention All-America nods at split end. Still, he admits he was at a "physical disadvantage" coming out of New Haven,

Continued

IVY CONNECTION

tilus machines and added almost 15 pounds to his 6-2, 200-pound frame in two months.

He says he went into camp with an "excellent, confident and aggressive" attitude. However, more than a few teammates had questions about his toughness and durability stemming from the fact that the Bengals receiver and punter, Pat McNally of Harvard, had gone down with a broken leg the year before. That won him the nickname "Candle," which Williams translates as, "One blow and you're out."

Then, he had to win over grizzled veterans like defensive lineman Coy Bacon.

"He was an old warhorse," Williams remembers. "I had to prove myself to him on every play, and that was a good orientation. Too many times, I might have stopped to pat myself on the back, but there was always old Coy Bacon there, giving me the eye."

Rohrer says many thought he wouldn't make it through his first camp.

"They said that the computer the Cowboys use to help them in the draft had blown a circuit and stuff like that," he said with a laugh.

But Coach Tom Landry and linebacker coach Jerry Tubbs recognized Rohrer's toughness and mobility, telling him to believe in himself and work hard.

He learned a lot.

"I would be covering Tony Dorsett on pass plays and have Herb Scott kick my legs out from under me. It was very humbling at first," Rohrer remembers. "But I was always pretty strong and my power was good. I just needed to make my play more disciplined after being a wild man at Yale. Now, I know all the tricks."

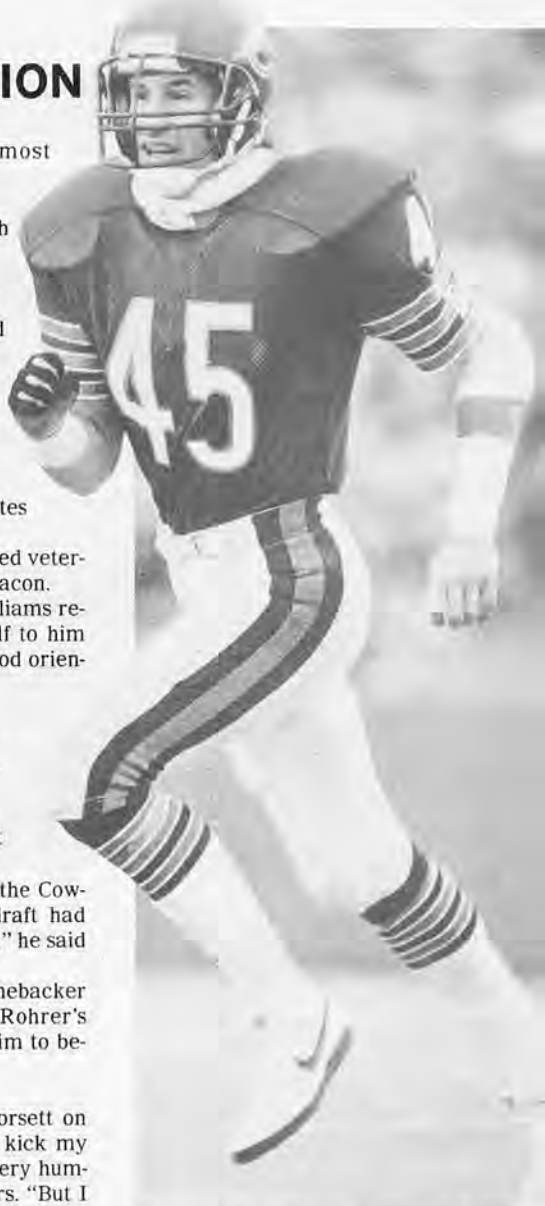
Spagnola was cut late in his first camp, but he hooked on with Philadelphia, where he's forged a solid career. His best year was 1985 when he caught 64 passes for 772 yards and five touchdowns.

The Eagles' player representative and the National Football League Players Association's first vice president, Spagnola is a team leader. Says teammate Reggie White: "I enjoy John; he's a great guy and down to earth. He's the type of person who knows when to have fun, and he knows when to get serious."

Spagnola's success bears out the comments of Maxie Baughan, the former NFL linebacker and Detroit Lions defensive coordinator who became Cornell University's head coach in 1983. He says that "to play in the NFL, you not only need adequate athletic ability, but you also have to be in the right place at the right time."

He asserts that athletic talent can be found throughout the Ivy League; however, the overall level of competition is lacking.

"There is a certain bias on the part of



Gary Fencik, a former history major at Yale, starred as a defensive back for the Chicago Bears.

the NFL toward the Ivy League and it's tough for us to overcome," Baughan says. "We're noted for our academics first, and then sports. The I.L. has a black eye, but I'm not sure it's warranted."

Young says a player's dedication to the game is a major key to succeeding in the NFL. For instance, he notes that many Ivy Leaguers come from affluent backgrounds and don't have the burning desire to athletically excel that a more disadvantaged player might have.

"To me, sports in general is a socioeconomic game," Young says. "Hungry people generally make better soldiers or players. But someone who is capable of overcoming their affluence certainly shows a lot of character."

Take, for example, Fencik, the Bears' all-time leader in takeaways with 38 interceptions and 12 fumble recoveries. He's also the team's leading tackler with 1,117, which is more than Midway Monsters Dick Butkus and Doug Buffone had.

Coming out of high school, Fencik rejected two Big Ten scholarship offers to attend Yale, where he paid his own way. As he told the New York Times last year, "I didn't want my entire college experience to be jeopardized by football."

He was a receiver who majored in history at Yale, where he collected 86 catches, 1,435 yards, seven touchdowns and all-conference recognition. After being drafted on the 10th round and later cut by the Dolphins in 1976, he signed as a free agent with the Bears and became the hard-hitting leader of the team's excellent secondary.

Dubbed the NFL's first Yuppie, Fencik has run with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, has a master's degree in management from Northwestern, is part owner of a Chicago bar and restaurant and has an avid interest in local politics.

"There are a lot of athletes who were more gifted than I am," the former Bears co-captain said in an interview late last season. "The variation at each position is not all that great. So the question is, 'What else do you bring to the table?'"

"I like to think that I had discipline and some football intelligence. And the fact that I was cut by Miami gave me that free-agent insecurity, that feeling of never taking anything for granted."

The Ivy League has a rich football tradition.

Princeton and Rutgers met on November 6, 1869, in New Brunswick, N.J., in this country's first intercollegiate game. By 1876, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia had formed the Intercollegiate Football Association, though Yale refused to join because of rules technicalities. Walter Camp, the player, coach and rules-maker who is known as the "father of American football," was a Yale. Princeton's Alexander Moffat, who could drop-kick a ball 40 yards, is credited with inventing the spiral punt in the 1880s.

The undefeated 1888 Yale squad, a Camp-coached team that included greats like Walter (Pudge) Heffelfinger and Amos Alonzo Stagg, held its opponents scoreless while racking up 708 points in 13 games.

Through the first half of this century, the Ivy League played some of the country's best college ball. Three players from the Ivies—Yale's Larry Kelley and Clint Frank in 1936 and 1937, respectively, and Princeton's Dick Kazmaier in 1951—won the Heisman Trophy. Indeed, many compared halfback Kazmaier to Jim Thorpe, while Columbia's quarterback, Sid Luckman, and Penn's center-linebacker, Chuck Bednarik, forged pro careers.

But in the 1950s, football's growing influence on Ivy campuses upset league officials who soon banned athletic scholarships, cut back schedules, prohibited bowl-game participation and did away with all but one day of spring practice a year.

Only rarely since then has a top team emerged from the league, like Dartmouth's 1970 squad that Coach Bob Blackman steered to a 9-0 record and a No. 14 ranking in the final wire-service polls.

Today, the travails of the hapless Columbia Lions, who hold the NCAA Division I record for the longest losing streak, don't accurately reflect the level at which the Ivy game is played. But it is safe to say that the league's overall quality of play pales when compared with the game played in other major conferences. In fact, some harsher critics dismiss it as no better than a notch or two above collegiate club football. That kind of rap can make life hard for a coach.

"Recruiting is tough because we have no athletic scholarships. The financial aid available is the same as it is for academics," says Cornell's Baughan. "It takes a unique individual to come here, someone who excels in sports but who also wants to do well in the classroom, too."

Young, who allows that his hard-nosed strong safety from Yale, Kenny Hill, is "one of the surest tacklers in the league," says the Giants don't purposely ignore Ivy League schools or "little Ivy" colleges like Williams and Amherst, "but a player has to be dominant in his league to make any kind of a mark in the NFL."

That road to NFL respectability can be bumpy.

Take, for example, 23-year-old safety Eugene Profit of the Patriots. A Gardena, Calif., native with an outstanding high school academic record, he had considered attending Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and UCLA, "but Yale had the best atmosphere and the best football in the Ivy League."

In New Haven, where he studied economics, Profit was a wing back and defensive back who won All-Ivy honorable mention his senior year. But he made his major athletic mark in track, setting several records as a long jumper.

Representatives from the Jets, Patriots, Redskins and Browns, impressed with his 4.39-second time in the 40, looked at Profit his senior year, but he wasn't drafted "probably because the scouts didn't have enough film and didn't know anything about me." He signed with New England in the summer of 1986 after interviewing for several business-world jobs in New York.

His first impression in camp was that he could do anything the pros could "until one day when the veterans came in and (wide receiver) Stanley Morgan was running circles around me."

Then, there was the Patriots' playbook.

"I learned real fast that I was, in effect, a football illiterate," Profit recalls. "I could barely read the playbook with all its complexities. In high school and at Yale, we had one defense with no variations. It was an eye-opener."

Profit did get some sound advice from some veterans who told him, "Don't make the same mistake twice." He took it to heart and escaped early roster cuts thanks to his speed, quickness and the fact that several other cornerbacks had been injured. However, Profit soon broke his thumb and went on the injured reserved list, where he spent a good part of his rookie season. In his first pro game in 1986 against New Orleans, he blocked a



Bengals linebacker Reggie Williams, a 12-year NFL veteran, was a Dartmouth bookworm who saw football as a social experience.

punt that a teammate ran in for a touchdown.

"Nothing was easy (at Yale) and I liked that," Profit says. "That gave me the self-discipline and confidence I needed to succeed at whatever I did. It's funny, because when I was in school, I was always on the go between practice every afternoon and classes. It taught me a lot about how to manage my time."

"Now, in one sense, I feel that one part of my life is missing because I don't have to study and I have a lot of time on my hands that I don't know what to do with."

He says some of his teammates occasionally razz him about being a Yale when they see him reading the business section and stock-market reports in the newspaper, "but more often than not, people are envious (of my education). I think they sense that there's something else I could be doing than just playing football. . . . Yale gave me the chance to keep every option open."

Profit, who has a bachelor of arts degree in economics, says his friends from Yale are "amazed" he's playing pro ball. "They're happy, but they constantly remind me that football is a very short, very transient career."

He admits that he hasn't been the career of a first- or second-round draft choice and "there still may be some skepticism about whether I can play 16 games without getting injured or whether I can take on fullbacks and guards head-on. But that just makes me want to work harder,

to try to become a Pro Bowl cornerback.

"I like playing the game and it has given me a very good lifestyle. I'd like to play as long as it's fun, but I certainly don't want to have three or four knee operations. When I feel I've gotten to the point where I'm not improving, that's when I'll move on to something else. But while I'm here, I like to think that I showed them more than they thought was there in the first place."

Lowery wishes he could've stuck around long enough in a pro camp to do that after he graduated from Dartmouth with a government degree in 1978. After being cut by four teams, he sat out the 1979 season and was working on Capitol Hill for Sen. Robert Packwood of Oregon when the Chiefs signed him as a free agent in 1980.

The 32-year-old Lowery has an impressive pro portfolio. He's third on the NFL's all-time field goal accuracy list with a 77 percent rate. He's a former Pro Bowler who has kicked 14 field goals of 50 yards or more—three fewer than the NFL record held by the man he beat out for the Chiefs job, the legendary Jan Stenerud—including a couple of 58-yarders. Indeed, Lowery is the only man in league history to kick two 50-yarders in a game three times. He's also kicked 100 points in a season five times.

"Pro football was something that I wanted to try out of college for a couple of years and then move on to something else," Lowery muses. "It's amazing to think that this will be my ninth year in the NFL. Now I'm an old man, just like Reggie Williams."

Lowery is the son of a Fullbright Scholar who worked for the U.S. State Department; his mother was the first American woman to attend Oxford. His college choice came down to Princeton or Dartmouth, and he went to the New Hampshire school "because people there seemed more down to earth. There seemed to be a proper blend of athletics and academics."

Lowery bristles at the fact that Ivy Leaguers are still somewhat stereotyped as pushovers in the pros. "As a kicker, you're not in there for 70 plays. But you have to be 'on' for 1.7 seconds and not miss. If anything, that makes you psychologically stronger and tougher. . . . The only way you can overcome that (bias) is by playing hard, just like Gary Fencik has done."

He says some of his classmates gave him a hard time about being a pro jock, especially after he had knocked around a while. But that stopped when he made it in Kansas City.

"There's a certain perception that athletes don't pursue their total development as people," Lowery explains. "But if you're perceived as a professional, you try to be the best professional you can be at whatever you do, even if you're a garbageman."

Lowery points out that his highly visible job puts him in a unique position to contribute to his community. For example,

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The Class of '89

Wide Receivers, Quarterback Crop Are Top Attractions

By MEL KIPER JR.
Free-lance writer

As another college football season approaches, it is time to turn attention to the 1989 National Football League draft. Though it is still too early to get a firm line on the top prospects, several observations can be made.

The 1988 quarterback crop was lackluster at best, but 1989 promises better. Leading the way is a potential franchise quarterback in UCLA's Troy Aikman. Rodney Peete is another talented performer who could eventually emerge as a top-notch pro prospect.

If they are able to bounce back from the injury list, running backs Bobby Humphrey and Blair Thomas will carry inflated ratings into the season. However, the strongest position again could turn out to be wide receiver, with Lawyer Tillman, John Ford, Hart Lee Dykes and Andre Rison all projected as first-rounders.

Another super blue-chipper on the offensive side is Michigan State's mammoth tackle, Tony Mandarich. He will enter the 1988 campaign with a grade similar to what Bill Fralic earned during his days with the Pittsburgh Panthers. Look for Mandarich to be one of the first five players selected.

Defensively, the linebacker and defensive back positions are filled with quality athletes capable of garnering high honors. Among the linebacking elite are Nebraska's Broderick Thomas, LSU's Eric Hill and Alabama's Derrick Thomas. In the secondary, Florida State's Deion Sanders, Clemson's Donnell Woolford and Florida's Louis Oliver should draw rave reviews from scouts around the NFL.

All of these ratings, of course, are subject to change based on injuries, senior production and many other factors. Nevertheless, the following is a position-by-position analysis of the top prospects (listed in potential drafting order) who are available for the 1989 NFL draft:

QUARTERBACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Troy Aikman, UCLA	6-3	217
Rodney Peete, Southern Cal	6-2	195
Chip Ferguson, Florida State	6-1	195
Mike Elkins, Wake Forest	6-3	215
Erik Wilhelm, Oregon State	6-3	201

Analysis: Aikman is a definite Heisman Trophy candidate and could be the first player chosen in the 1989 NFL draft. He's a multi-talented athlete with ideal size and a big-league arm, primed for a rec-



Southern Cal quarterback Rodney Peete is an escape artist who rates high with pro scouts.

ord-setting final campaign with the Bruins. There is a dropoff in talent at the quarterback position after Aikman, although Peete has some intriguing qualities that could make NFL clubs in the market for a young quarterback stand up and take notice. Peete's escape ability frustrates defenders, and he has improved as a passer each year with the Trojans. The Southern Cal-UCLA clash should prove interesting. Both Aikman and Peete are experienced quarterbacks capable of single-handedly leading their clubs to victory. With the departure of Danny McManus, Ferguson is in position to reclaim the starting job for Bobby Bowden's exciting Seminoles. He possesses a live arm, but needs to improve his touch and become more consistent from game to game. Elkins has enjoyed a productive career with the Deacons, pulling out several

high-scoring shootouts during his college career. Elkins is your classic drop-back passer, hanging tough in the face of a strong rush. Wilhelm, a dart-throwing southpaw, is at the helm of the Beavers' controlled passing attack. He has been forced to carry the offensive load because of an incompetent ground game.

RUNNING BACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Bobby Humphrey, Alabama	6-1	187
Blair Thomas, Penn State	5-11	190
Lewis Tillman, Jackson State	6-0	195
Steven Webster, Southern Cal	5-10	185
Anthony Stafford, Oklahoma	5-7	175
Eric Ball, UCLA	6-1	216
James Rouse, Arkansas	6-1	222
Eric Metcalf, Texas	5-9	178
Jim Bell, Boston College	6-1	202
Todd McNair, Temple	6-2	190
Ivy Joe Hunter, Kentucky	6-0	213
Elroy Harris, E. Kentucky	5-10	215
John Harvey, Texas-El Paso	6-0	190
A. B. Brown, West Virginia	5-10	211

Analysis: Humphrey and Thomas are coming off injuries, but reports indicate they should be ready to go by the start of the regular season. Humphrey is a legitimate franchise back, joining Aikman as one of the top Heisman candidates for 1989. The silky-smooth, gliding-type runner only needs a small crack in the line to bust through for sizable yardage. Thomas lacks the all-around skills of Humphrey, but is a quality performer in his own right. Thomas is more quick than fast, with a good hesitation step and exceptional vision, able to make tacklers miss once he breaks into the second line of defense. The top small-college back available in 1989 should be Tillman, another quality athletic talent out of the Southwestern Athletic Conference. If he is able to live up to expectations, don't be surprised if he is off the board by the end of the first round. When at full strength, Southern Cal's Webster has been able to dazzle a crowd and bring the opposition to its knees. If the defense ever relaxes, Webster is able to capitalize, exhibiting jet-powered acceleration out of the blocks. The diminutive Stafford is a better prospect than former teammate Patrick Collins, possessing sub 4.4 speed and surprising strength for a player his size. Stafford would fit in well with a club in need of a swift situational back able to provide outside speed. Ball and Rouse are talented big backs who can run over or around a tackler, while Metcalf rates as a jack of all trades and one of the more exciting players in the country. Steady production will have to be provided by Bell, McNair and Hunter if their respective squads have any hope of enjoying a winning 1988 season. Bell is a no-nonsense-type, all-purpose back, McNair rates as a major college sleeper who could move well up the charts with a strong campaign, and Hunter will be the focal point of the Wildcat



Oklahoma State wide receiver Hart Lee Dykes (left) is a big-play man who can take over a game at crunch



time, while Alabama running back Bobby Humphrey is a potential franchise player.

attack with the graduation of Mark Higgs. Harris is the Ohio Valley Conference's top pro prospect in 1989, capable of attaining a fairly high rating with a productive senior year.

FULLBACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Tracy Johnson, Clemson	6-0	230
Cleveland Gary, Miami (Fla.)	6-2	226
Tyreese Knox, Nebraska	5-10	215
Kevin Morgan, Virginia	6-0	226

Analysis: Leading the way for tailbacks Wesley McFadden and Terry Allen again will be the underrated Johnson, a superior blocker and one of the most reliable short-yardage rushers Clemson has ever had. Gary, who began his college career at Georgia, is the likely replacement for Melvin Bratton and should team with super-quick sophomore running back Leonard Conley. The Cornhusker attack adds another dimension with Knox on hand. He is a powerful runner with above-average speed, keeping the defense honest between the tackles. Morgan was considered one of the top prospects in Virginia back in 1984, after establishing a number of school career records, including most carries, most yards gained rushing and most points scored. The fact that he has worked at both halfback and fullback gives you an idea of his all-around skills.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Lawyer Tillman, Auburn	6-4	224
John Ford, Virginia	6-3	207
Hart Lee Dykes, Oklahoma St.	6-4	220
Andre Rison, Michigan State	5-11	195
Terance Mathis, New Mexico	5-9	162
Dana Brinson, Nebraska	5-9	170
Naz Worthen, N. C. State	5-9	168
Brian Slater, Washington	6-4	195
Michael Timpson, Penn State	5-11	175
Jason Phillips, Houston	5-9	175
Rod Harris, Texas A&M	5-11	183
Erik Affholter, Southern Cal	6-1	190

Analysis: There were plenty of highly skilled wideouts available in this year's draft, and the same should be true again in 1989. Tillman, Ford, Dykes and Rison have been standout performers at the major-college level since early in their careers. Tillman is a super blue-chipper with awesome physical skills, able to take over a game at crunch time. Expect the Auburn star to be off the board early in the first round. Another player with similar qualifications is Ford, who could have rated as a first-round pick if he had decided to enter the 1988 draft. Dykes is similar in many ways to the New York Jets' Al Toon, while Rison rates as a better pro prospect at this stage of his development than former Spartan Mark Ingram. Mathis, Brinson and Worthen are smurf types with blazing speed and all-the-way potential anytime they get their hands on

the ball. Slater provides quite a target and should be a stickout performer in the Pac-10 this season, teaming with junior quarterback Cary Conklin. Paterno will need a great deal of production from the speedy Timpson, because of the graduation of Ray Roundtree and Mike Alexander. Phillips is the key wide receiver in the Cougars' run-and-shoot offense, ranking as one of the more productive pass-catchers in the country entering his final campaign. Harris is athletically gifted and super quick, but has yet to hit his stride with the Aggies, plagued by periods of inconsistency when he drops catchable balls. USC's Affholter is just the opposite, lacking big-play ability, but possessing superior overall pass-receiving skills.

TIGHT ENDS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Walter Reeves, Auburn	6-4	247
Troy Sadowski, Georgia	6-4	228
Keith Jennings, Clemson	6-4	235
Duncan Parham, Oklahoma	6-5	245
Jesse Anderson, Miss. State	6-3	228
Chris Garrett, Arizona State	6-4	205
Andy Heck, Notre Dame	6-6	246
Paul Green, Southern Cal	6-3	230
Howard Cross, Alabama	6-6	232

Analysis: There are no tight ends in a class with former Oklahoma star Keith Jackson, although several players, such as

Continued

Reeves, Sadowski and Jennings, could carry high ratings into the 1989 NFL draft. Reeves is an experienced in-line blocker who has developed into a solid intermediate receiver in the Tigers' attack. Sadowski came on with a rush late season, as did Clemson's athletically-gifted Jennings. Consistency from game to game has established Sadowski as a fine prospect, while Jennings is the consummate big-play threat, operating as a wideout with the conservative Tigers. Parham has the unenviable task of replacing Jackson this season for the Sooners. He's an athletic talent who should provide solid in-line blocking, as well as quite a target for quarterbacks Jamelle Holieway and Charles Thompson. Anderson and Garrett run extremely well, but their blocking ability remains a question mark. Anderson will play tailback this season. As is the case with Jennings, Arizona State's Garrett also played as a wideout during his collegiate career. Heck proved to be a reliable, sure-handed receiver in the Fighting Irish attack, but is being asked to switch to offensive tackle. Green is the top returning senior tight end in the Pac-10 Conference, catching everything thrown in his direction by Peete. Alabama's Cross could be a sleeper. He has good hands but needs to improve his strength.

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Tony Mandarich, Michigan St.	6-6	303
David Williams, Florida	6-5	293
Bob Kratch, Iowa	6-4	288
Tom Ricketts, Pittsburgh	6-5	285
Mike Utley, Washington St.	6-6	302

Analysis: Heading the list of super blue-chip tackles is Mandarich, a 303-pounder who covers 40 yards in 4.7 seconds. He is without question one of the top five players available in 1989. Mandarich has benefited from the balanced attack employed by Coach George Perles and is as adept at run blocking as defending his quarterback. Williams is the Southeastern Conference's top returning lineman and will be looked upon to provide leadership along the Gator line. The wide-open Iowa Hawkeyes have supplied the NFL with several early-round draft choices in recent years, and the underrated Kratch will continue the tradition. He's worked at both guard and tackle, possessing excellent all-around athletic ability. Another quality lineman who has failed to receive the national recognition he deserves is Ricketts, operating much of his college career in the shadow of standout Pittsburgh guard Mark Stepnoski. He can handle the critical left tackle position because of his exceptional feet and balance and is able to neutralize the charge of super-quick pass-rushing defensive ends. Utley has been a starter for the Cougars since his redshirt freshman year back in 1985.

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Mark Stepnoski, Pittsburgh	6-3	265
Larry Rose, Alabama	6-4	273
Joe Wolf, Boston College	6-6	284
Anthony Phillips, Oklahoma	6-3	280
Steve Wisniewski, Penn State	6-4	270
Mike Zandofsky, Washington	6-2	299

Analysis: The top pure guard available in 1989 should be Stepnoski, a rugged eastern lineman with a defensive temperament and tremendous functional strength. Rose was the first 12-game starter as a "true" freshman performer at Alabama since the first-year eligibility rule was reinstated in 1972. He has developed into one of the top guards in college football, earning high grades in the Crimson Tide's big games. Consistency from game to game is the forte of Wolf, who has decided to return to Chestnut Hill for his fifth year of collegiate eligibility. Phillips, who hurt his knee in the spring and might redshirt, teamed with Greg Johnson to form an awesome guard-tackle tandem, after an exceptional prep career where he was considered the top line prospect in Oklahoma. Zandofsky can be a devastating force as a one-on-one drive blocker, taking maximum advantage of his brute strength and quickness. He holds all current weight-lifting records for Husky guards and centers, including the all-time school record in the power clean. Relying on finesse and flawless position technique is Penn State's Wisniewski, a well-coached lineman who always gives you a solid day's work.

CENTERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Jeff Garnica, N. Carolina	6-4	265
Bob Sign, Baylor	6-1	286
Joe Tofflemire, Arizona	6-2	266
Andy Sinclair, Stanford	6-3	280

Analysis: Garnica began his college career as a tight end before moving inside to anchor the Tar Heel offensive line. He is a smart, competitive football player with exceptional work habits and above-average natural athletic talent. Sign began his college career at Pitt, where he was a starter at guard before transferring to Baylor. He will be counted on to provide leadership and stability, compensating for the graduation of star tackle Joel Porter. Sign is tough, strong, dedicated, and capable of ranking as the top center in the Southwest Conference this season. Tofflemire and Sinclair are a pair of quality centers out of the Pac-10. Both are technically sound and experienced, and enjoy hand-to-hand combat in the trenches.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Bill Hawkins, Miami (Fla.)	6-6	260
Raymond Chavous, Clemson	6-5	280
Matt Brock, Oregon	6-5	257
Rhondy Weston, Florida	6-5	278
Jessie Small, E. Kentucky	6-3	240
Mark Hall, S. W. Louisiana	6-5	285
Ron Stallworth, Auburn	6-5	258
Trace Armstrong, Florida	6-5	262
Warren Powers, Maryland	6-6	277
Richard McCullough, Clemson	6-5	265
Tracy Rocker, Auburn	6-3	258
Jeff Roth, Florida	6-4	255
Mark Messner, Michigan	6-3	244
Majett Whiteside, California	6-2	260
Rodney Lowe, Mississippi	6-5	260
Benji Roland, Auburn	6-4	268

Analysis: Miami Coach Jimmy Johnson will be counting on Hawkins to pick up the slack for the departed Dan Stubbs, provid-

ing steady pressure from the outside. Clemson has two fine senior linemen in Chavous and McCullough, while Oregon's Brock rates as one of the more underrated players in the Pac-10. The strength of the Florida defense is without question a defensive front led by seniors Weston, Armstrong and Roth. Weston possesses excellent pass-rush potential, Armstrong enjoyed an impressive spring after coming over from Arizona State and Roth uses his quickness to cause problems inside at nose tackle. Hall is a huge physical specimen who can dominate when properly motivated, and appears primed for a big senior year. Aaron Jones garnered most of the national publicity late in the 1987 season, but Small was the most consistent lineman at Eastern Kentucky, totaling 15 sacks and numerous pressures. Rocker is an injury question mark heading into the regular season, which is why Auburn Coach Pat Dye is expecting an All-America-caliber performance out of Stallworth. One of the Atlantic Coast Conference's more talented defensive ends is Powers, an imposing defender with exceptional wing-span and natural pass-rush instincts. Messner heads the over-achiever list, while Whiteside ranks as a standout nose tackle capable of wreaking havoc in the middle of the line. NFL scouts will like the all-around athletic talent of Lowe, an unheralded player in the SEC with the Rebels. Like Messner, Auburn's Roland is a fierce competitor who battles hard for 60 minutes.

LINEBACKERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Broderick Thomas, Nebraska	6-3	235
Eric Hill, LSU	6-2	245
Derrick Thomas, Alabama	6-4	222
Eric Lindstrom, Boston College	6-3	224
John Roper, Texas A&M	6-2	235
Eric Smith, UCLA	6-3	233
Jerrold Williams, Purdue	6-5	235
LeRoy Etienne, Nebraska	6-1	230
Carnell Lake, UCLA	6-0	204
Rod Carter, Miami (Fla.)	6-1	231
Keith Karpinski, Penn State	6-4	222
Wes Pritchett, Notre Dame	6-5	244
David Griggs, Virginia	6-4	235
Barry McKeever, Stanford	6-3	242

Analysis: Several blue-chippers head the list of outside linebackers available in 1989, led by big-play men Broderick Thomas, Hill and Derrick Thomas. Nebraska's Thomas can be an unstoppable force on occasion, showing terrific pass-rush skills off the corner, as well as exceptional ability in pursuit, always taking the proper angles. Hill is one of the more instinctive football players available on the defensive side of the ball. The Crimson Tide's Thomas is an awesome attack outside linebacker in the mold of former Alabama All-America Cornelius Bennett. He is a major league enforcer with explosive striking ability and defensive back-type speed, allowing him to do a good job on pass coverage. Lindstrom and Eric Smith both redshirted last year because of injury. Lindstrom runs under 4.65 on occasion, while Smith has been near the top of the UCLA tackle chart when at full strength. One of the more intimidating



Nebraska linebacker Broderick Thomas can be an unstoppable force when rushing opposing passers.

outside pass rushers is A&M's Roper, even though he lacks prototype size for the position. Williams is beginning to realize his potential, gaining the consistency needed to carry a good rating into the 1988 season. UCLA's Lake is more of a "tweener," in the mold of former Pitt star Zeke Gadsden. Complementing Thomas for the Cornhuskers is steady inside man LeRoy Etienne, who was considered one of the top linebackers in the nation after his senior year in high school. Griggs possesses intriguing physical qualifications, while Miami's Carter has been an unheralded defensive standout for the talented Hurricanes. Veteran leadership will be provided by Pritchett and Karpinski, both of whom are returning for their fifth years of eligibility. The latter has shown a great deal of promise at times, but durability has been a problem. McKeever is a major college sleeper worth keeping a close eye on this season.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Deion Sanders, Florida State	6-0	195
Donnell Woolford, Clemson	5-10	195
Louis Oliver, Florida	6-2	227
Mario Mitchell, San Diego St.	5-10	180
Robert Massey, N. C. Central	5-11	184
Gene Jelks, Alabama	5-11	174
Kevin Dent, Jackson State	6-2	189
Melvin Gilliam, Oklahoma St.	6-0	175
Cyril Crutchfield, N. E. La.	6-1	197
Donald Ellis, Miami (Fla.)	5-10	176
Falanda Newton, TCU	6-2	200
Michael Andrews, Alcorn State	5-11	193
Alex Morris, Texas A&M	6-2	195
Kermit Kendrick, Alabama	6-2	200
George Streeter, Notre Dame	6-2	208
Bubba McDowell, Miami (Fla.)	6-1	195
Steve Atwater, Arkansas	6-4	216
Markus Paul, Syracuse	6-2	200
Stevon Moore, Mississippi	6-0	205
David Arnold, Michigan	6-3	195
Charles Fryar, Nebraska	5-10	175
Tracy Butts, Southern Cal	5-10	188
Tony Zackery, Washington	6-2	186
Stan Shiver, Florida State	6-2	204
Clint Normore, Kansas	6-0	200

Analysis: Sanders, Woolford and Oliver are exceptional athletes with future Pro-Bowl ability. Sanders is the fastest player on the Seminole squad, enabling him to blanket the wide receivers he goes up against from his cornerback post. Another top-notch corner is Clemson's Woolford, a sturdy defender who is able to bench press 340 pounds, the best mark by a Tiger defensive back in three years. The top free safety in the 1989 draft is without question Florida's Oliver, a highly skilled performer in a class with former Miami All-America Bennie Blades. The former walk-on has been clocked at 4.38. Mitchell had a sub-par 1987 campaign, but is an instinctive man-to-man cornerback who plays taller than 5-10 and shows above-average recovery speed. Two small-college standouts with early-round ability are Massey and Dent. Alabama's Jelks made the smooth transition from running back to cornerback, improving steadily as the season progressed. Oklahoma State's Gilliam is one of the top pure athletes in the Big Eight. Crutchfield and Andrews are relative unknowns who appear to have futures in the NFL. Ellis is known for his steady play, while TCU's Newton has been a quality starter for the Horned Frogs since early in his college career. Morris, Kendrick, Streeter and Atwater are fine prospects, but the underrated major college sleeper who could rocket up the charts with a strong final campaign is Miami's Bubba McDowell. He's been a destroyer on special teams and will be given the chance to shine in the Hurricanes' secondary this season. Paul will be joined in the Orangemen secondary by three other senior defenders.

PLACEKICKERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Pete Stoyanovich, Indiana	5-11	171
Chris Kinzer, Virginia Tech	6-0	220
Charlie Baumann, W. Virginia	6-0	198
Bill Wright, Temple	5-9	166

PUNTERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Chris Becker, TCU	6-2	185
Chris Mohr, Alabama	6-4	195
Brian Shulman, Auburn	5-10	189

Analysis: Stoyanovich has decided to hang up his soccer cleats and concentrate on football. He was the third-leading scorer for a Hoosier soccer team that ranked No. 1 much of the 1987 season. Stoyanovich is hindered by inconsistency and poor kickoffs. His decision to concentrate on football, however, may put an end to those problems. Interest in Kinzer waned following a subpar 1987 season. Kinzer was dominant in 1986, however, converting 22 of 27 field-goal attempts, including a streak of 17 straight. Baumann is steady as indicated by his 74 percent success rate. Depth on kickoffs and strength of leg outside the 40-yard marker remain question marks. Wright has potential but has not lived up to his billing. Becker, Mohr and Shulman often are considered 12th defenders for having the knack of pinning opponents deep in their own zone. Becker showed tremendous progress last season and rates ahead of Mohr and Shulman. ■

The Class of '84

Four Years Later, Steve Young Still Has Much Promise

By FRANK COONEY
San Francisco Examiner

Four years after making international headlines by signing a \$42 million pro football contract, quarterback Steve Young remains an unfulfilled promise. He is unfulfilled, but still full of promise.

So much promise, in fact, that he will be battling none other than Joe Montana for the San Francisco 49ers' starting quarterback job this fall. But perhaps more impressive than his ability is his confidence, which Young somehow has managed to maintain despite a series of events that might have demoralized or ruined many athletes.

"When he joined us, he was the same self-confident athlete he was in college," said 49ers quarterbacks coach Mike Holmgren, who had tutored Young at Brigham Young, the quarterback factory that was named for the All-America's great-great-grandfather.

Gifted with quick feet and a strong left arm, Young passed for 3,902 yards and finished second to Nebraska running back Mike Rozier in the 1983 Heisman Trophy voting. And when Rozier signed with the United States Football League, Young figured to be the first player drafted in the National Football League, by the Cincinnati Bengals.

Instead he became at once a benefactor and a victim of the late, great war between the NFL and the USFL. Young signed that milestone \$42 million contract with the USFL's Los Angeles Express on March 5, 1984. He thus became an instant celebrity surrounded by outstanding talent on a team and in a league that were headed for financial disaster.

Young played 25 games for the Express over two seasons, passing for 4,102 yards and rushing for another 883 yards. But in September 1985 he bought out his contract with the Express and moved to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who had selected him first in the NFL's 1984 supplemental draft of USFL players. Suddenly he was cast as a savior for a hopelessly untalented team, although he finally was in a league that was flourishing.

Still sore from his 1985 USFL season, Young sat out much of his first NFL campaign as Steve DeBerg started behind center for the Bucs. Two games into the 1986 season, Young took over as the starter and passed for 2,282 yards.

The Bucs, however, were demoralized and in the midst of being disassembled—even at quarterback. They made Heisman



Steve Young is in the running for San Francisco's starting quarterback job after a football history of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Trophy winner Vinny Testaverde the first pick in the 1987 draft. So it was that on April 24, 1987, Young was traded to the 49ers for second- and fourth-round picks in the 1987 draft and cash.

San Francisco thus became his third employer in barely three years, but Young does not seem fazed by his arduous pro football journey.

"Sure, a lot of things happened to me, but I think it was all good training," he said. "I think it's helped me get ready for the challenge I will face with the 49ers because they set a high standard here, especially at quarterback.

"A person might be tempted to look back and say, 'What has happened to you?' But as far as I'm concerned, everything that's happened has helped me grow. I've had to change three times and I've had to reprove myself three times. It was hard, but I believe I met those challenges.

"Sure, it was kind of weird playing in almost-empty stadiums in the USFL and then not really being able to use my abili-

ties at Tampa. But now I am with a team that is known for its passing game. I made it through everything else, but this is the kind of challenge I wanted all along."

But how was it that Young, who is not all that materialistic and whose original goal was to play in the NFL, had to take such a circuitous route to get where he is? It all began with that NFL-USFL war.

"Back in '84, Cincinnati let it be known they were interested in making Steve the first pick in the draft, but he would have to sit for two or three years behind Ken Anderson," recalled Leigh Steinberg, Young's agent. "Meanwhile, the USFL needed a strong presence in Los Angeles both for the team and for the television market. They had Herschel Walker in the East and they needed somebody in L.A. who was flashy, handsome and marketable."

Young certainly fit that description, but he was not an easy target for the Express.

"But General Manager Don Klosterman went about luring Steve very cleverly," Steinberg said. "They had a coach, John Hadl, who had been John Elway's coach (with the Denver Broncos in 1983). They had Sid Gillman, acknowledged as the architect of the modern passing game. They had at least three offensive linemen and maybe seven players in all who might have been first-round picks in the NFL.

"Then they said, 'Look, you can go sit on the bench in some NFL city, but here we are going to give you a starting job with the best of training surrounded by a great cast.' Knowing Young had certain off-the-field goals, the Express also offered a \$183,000 scholarship fund for BYU and gave him an off-season job in a bank because they knew he was interested in economics."

That, of course, is not to mention the \$42 million contract, which included payment of \$5 million in the first four years and a \$37 million annuity.

Young was unprepared for the worldwide reaction to the size and magnitude of his contract.

"Steve was stunned that his contract made front-page news all over the world, including Germany and Japan," Steinberg said. "He was shocked at how he was being held up as a symbol of excess materialism and sports economics gone wild. He was troubled by it."

Said Young: "I wanted to be known for football and for being a role model. But all anyone wanted to talk about was the size of my contract. It was a little overwhelming."

But Young hardly seemed overwhelmed. He remained unaffected by his instant wealth.

"He just kept driving an old Oldsmobile or something, wore T-shirts, jeans and tennis shoes and ate half his meals at Burger King," Steinberg recalled.



The United States Football League was looking for a strong presence in Los Angeles in 1984 and flashy, handsome and marketable Steve Young fit the description.

When the USFL began to crumble, Young and Steinberg negotiated a \$1.1 million contract buyout that allowed the quarterback to sign with the Bucs. The new deal was worth approximately \$6 million over six seasons, including a \$1 million signing bonus.

Young appeared to be set, but the Bucs changed their thinking about their quarterback situation after failing to sign the first pick in the 1986 draft, running back Bo Jackson, who opted for a baseball career. That wasted draft pick angered the fans, and Owner Hugh Culverhouse realized that drafting the popular Testaverde would help to win back the fans' support.

But he also realized that he couldn't afford both Young and Testaverde. Drafting Testaverde made Young trade bait.

Five teams made bids to trade for Young—San Diego, Dallas, St. Louis, Green Bay and San Francisco. The Packers actually made the best offer, but Young told Culverhouse he preferred San Francisco. Since Culverhouse had lured Young to Tampa by describing his future in glowing terms, the owner felt obliged to honor the quarterback's request.

The 49ers believed they had acquired good insurance against Montana's back problems as well as a potential successor who could become one of the best quar-

terbacks in the league. All they had to do was help him overcome some of the bad habits he had acquired since leaving college.

"From a physical and mental standpoint, the 49ers' system is much more demanding than any I have known," Young said. "Last year was really a learning experience, especially watching Joe. He has grown up in this system and does everything smoothly. Consistency is the key to running this offense."

And for Young, that means running less.

"Steve is such a great runner that he tends to take off too soon sometimes," Holmgren said. "From our standpoint, we would like him to make sure that there isn't another alternative, a second or third receiver."

"After that, we are not telling him not to run. But we are telling him to be aware of getting out of bounds and be conscious of when to go into a slide."

As for playing behind a superstar, Young has been in that situation before.

"At BYU he came in as our Number 8 quarterback behind . . . Jim McMahon," Holmgren said. "He wasn't highly recruited because he was an option quarterback in high school, and a lot of coaches didn't think his passing ability was as good as it was."

By the time McMahon was injured late in 1981 (his senior season), Young, a sophomore, had moved up the depth chart and was ready to assume the starting job. The next year he threw for 3,100 yards.

"I can't be concerned about being on the same team with a Montana," Young said. "Sure he's one of the greatest ever to play the game. But I believe in my ability, and competition is what this game is all about, right?"

"Of course I want to start. If I were the kind of guy who was content to be on the bench, I probably wouldn't be here. I like it with the 49ers. Great coaching, great system, great players all around."

"It wasn't exactly easy to get here, but I think I learned a few things along the way that will help me as both a person and a quarterback."

★ ★ ★

On the following two pages is a team-by-team breakdown of the 1984 draft compiled by Howard Balzer of The Sporting News.

Premium picks normally are those in the first three rounds of the draft. For the purposes of this study, players selected in the supplemental draft were included in the premium-pick portion of the chart.

The abundance of players having already signed with the USFL affected the regular draft and resulted in a particularly weak first round. Of the 28 first-round choices in 1984, six already are out of pro football and another six are with teams other than the one that drafted them. ■

TEAM	PREMIUM PICKS	PREM. PICKS WITH TEAM	WITH TEAM	NFL TEAM	TOTAL PICKS WITH TEAM	WITH TEAM	NFL TEAM	DRAFT SUMMARY
Atlanta Falcons	Of four picks in first three rounds, half are elsewhere. No. 1 defensive end Rick Bryan and No. 2 cornerback Scott Case are active. No. 2 linebacker Thomas Benson with San Diego and No. 3 corner Rod McSwain with New England. Only supplemental active is No. 1 wide receiver Joey Jones.	7	3	3	17	3	*8	Grade: C-. Grade would be better if we counted six players who finished '87 season on other rosters. No one on team after third round. Even undrafted free agent kicker Dean Biasucci is elsewhere, with Colts. No. 6 quarterback Ben Bennett is playing Arena Football.
Chicago Bears	Only one pick remains: No. 2 linebacker Ron Rivera, who will try to fill shoes of No. 1 Wilber Marshall. Marshall signed with Washington as a free agent. No. 3 guard Stefan Humphries traded to Denver. Bears traded all their supplemental picks to Cleveland.	3	1	2	11	2	2	Grade: C-. Got great play from No. 1 Marshall, then let him get away to Redskins. Traded all supplemental picks for four regular choices and only one with team is defensive back Shaun Gayle (10th). No wonder Bears have never been very active in the trade market.
Dallas Cowboys	A below average haul for Cowboys. No. 2 safety Victor Scott will challenge for starting spot this year. No. 1 linebacker Billy Cannon Jr. had career ended by injury. No. 3 tight end Fred Cornwell never met expectations. No. 1 supplemental Todd Fowler is with team as backup.	6	2	*1	12	5	0	Grade: B-. Premium picks only average but mid-round choices solid plus undrafted safety Vince Albritton. Middle linebacker Eugene Lockhart (6th) came with pick acquired for Jay Saldi. Quarterback Steve Pelluer came in fifth round and linebacker Steve DeOssie in fourth.
Detroit Lions	Three of five picks in first three rounds active with Lions, but not No. 1 tight end David Lewis. No. 2 wide receiver Pete Mandley has been injury prone but No. 3 defensive lineman Eric Williams solid. Only supplemental around is No. 2 linebacker George Jamison.	8	4	*3	18	4	†5	Grade: C. No one after third round on roster except undrafted free agent wide receiver Carl Bland. Cornerback William Frizzell (10th) with Eagles and punter Mike Saxon (11th) with Cowboys. Supplemental wide receiver Al Williams (2nd) with Chargers.
Green Bay Packers	Packers still waiting for consistency from No. 1 defensive end Alphonso Carreker. No. 3 defensive lineman Donnie Humphrey ate himself out of league. No. 2 had been traded in John Jefferson deal. No production from supplemental, although No. 1 running back Buford Jordan with Saints.	5	1	*2	13	4	3	Grade: C+. Mediocre job early but later rounds helped with choice of linebacker John Dorsey (4th), quarterback Randy Wright (6th) and center Mark Cannon (11th). In addition, tight end Ed West was signed as an undrafted free agent. Seven of 13 picks active in NFL.
Los Angeles Rams	Rams only picks were in supplemental and No. 1 defensive end William Fuller traded in Jim Everett deal. Other deals: No. 1 to Kansas City for Gary Green, No. 2 to Cleveland for Ron Brown and No. 3 to Detroit for David Hill. None are still with the club.	3	0	1	13	1	3	Grade: D-. The answer: tight end Norwood Vann. The question: Name the only Ram draftee from 1984 still with the team. Three are elsewhere in NFL: supplemental pick Fuller, linebacker/long snapper Ed Brady (8th) with Bengals and wide receiver Michael Harper (11th) with Jets.
Minnesota Vikings	No. 1 defensive tackle Keith Millard heart of defense after first signing with USFL. No. 3 fullback Alfred Anderson has been a solid backup. No. 3 supplemental linebacker David Howard was best of that group. No. 2 traded with No. 4 to Houston for Archie Manning and Dave Casper.	5	3	1	15	4	1	Grade: B-. Overall a weak draft, but standout play of No. 1 Millard elevates the grade. After first three rounds, only player who remains is No. 5 fullback Allen Rice. Rice and No. 3 Anderson have contributed to the ground game. Supplemental pick Robert Smith (2nd) with Dallas.
New Orleans Saints	A mixed bag for Saints. No. 1 traded for Richard Todd, but No. 2 brought defensive end James Geathers while first two picks in supplemental produced linebacker Vaughan Johnson and running back/kick returner Mel Gray. No. 2 safety Terry Hoage now with Philadelphia.	6	3	1	14	5	3	Grade: B-. Success in supplemental draft lifts overall grade. Contributors added after third round were center Joel Hilgenberg (4th) and punter Brian Hansen (9th). Hilgenberg enters training camp as starter, not surprising considering his bloodlines.
New York Giants	Not needing linebackers, Giants still went for Carl Banks on first round and haven't regretted decision. No. 1 tackle William Roberts has played but not at first-round level. No. 3 quarterback Jeff Hostetler a backup. No. 1 supplemental tackle Gary Zimmerman dealt to Vikings.	6	3	1	15	5	*3	Grade: B. Choice of All-Pro caliber linebacker Banks on first round improves draft rating. Linebacker Gary Reasons came in fourth round on pick acquired for Scott Brunner. Wide receiver Lionel Manuel a steal in seventh round. Free agent corner Elvis Patterson with Chargers.
Philadelphia Eagles	Draft got worse with off-season retirement of No. 1 wide receiver Kenny Jackson. No. 2 traded to Atlanta for linebacker Joel Williams and No. 3 bust was tackle Rusty Russell. However, gold was struck with No. 1 supplemental defensive end Reggie White, an All-Pro.	5	1	0	13	3	1	Grade: B-. Eagles got help from unexpected places: supplemental for White and undrafted free agents: linebacker Mike Reichenbach and safety Andre Waters. Defensive back Evan Cooper added on fourth round and kicker Paul McFadden, in battle for job this summer, in 12th.
Phoenix Cardinals	The George Boone legacy lives. Only players active are from supplemental: No. 1 center Mike Ruether and No. 2 guard Derek Kennard. No. 1 wide receiver Clyde Duncan an all-time bad pick with No. 3 quarterback Rick McIvor. No. 2 guard Doug Dawson solid until Achilles injury.	6	2	0	17	3	*4	Grade: C-. Supplemental picks and linebacker Niko Noga (8th) saves grade from being even lower. Mid-round choices helped other teams: safety Martin Bayless (4th) with San Diego and linebacker Jeff Leiding (5th) with Indianapolis. NFL still shakes its head over Clyde Duncan.
San Francisco 49ers	Trading down was Coach Bill Walsh's strategy. Tight end John Frank (No. 2) came with pick from Raiders and guard Guy McIntyre (No. 3) from Cardinals. Injury prone linebacker Todd Shell the No. 1. Injuries have slowed No. 1 supplemental wide receiver Derrick Crawford.	6	4	1	12	6	1	Grade: B-. Best pick of entire draft was nose tackle Michael Carter in fifth round. 49ers have also received contributions from fifth-round safety Jeff Fuller. Both came in picks acquired in club's draft-day trading frenzy. Four players came as result of those deals.
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Where have all the players gone? No. 1 had gone for quarterback Jack Thompson and No. 1 supplemental quarterback Steve Young signed, then traded to 49ers. No. 2 linebacker Keith Browner never was consistent and No. 3 cornerback Fred Acorn out of football.	5	0	*2	14	2	†5	Grade: D. Only players still on roster are linebacker Chris Washington (6th) and guard Rick Mallory (9th). No. 4 tackle Ron Heller traded in off-season to Seattle. Trade of supplemental pick Young brought linebacker Winston Moss and wide receiver Bruce Hill.
Washington Redskins	Trade down landed No. 2 defensive tackle Bob Slater, who blew out knee. However, third round brought quarterback Jay Schroeder. Supplemental produced No. 2 wide receiver Gary Clark, while No. 1 kicker Tony Zendejas and No. 3 wide receiver Clarence Verdin both traded.	6	3	2	14	5	5	Grade: C+. Redskins not as successful this time in late picks or undrafted free agents. No. 10 running back Keith Griffin and No. 11 tight end Anthony Jones still active. Undrafted free agent linebacker Orlando Lowry has produced—but with the Indianapolis Colts.

TEAM	PREMIUM PICKS	PREM. PICKS	WITH TEAM	NFL TEAM	TOTAL PICKS	WITH TEAM	NFL TEAM	DRAFT SUMMARY
Buffalo Bills	Only players still on team are No. 3 defensive end Sean McNanie and supplemental No. 1 pick safety Dwight Drane. Bills got some production out of No. 1 running back Greg Bell, who was traded to Rams. Should have been better with five choices in first three rounds of regular draft.	8	2	*3	17	3	†5	Grade: D. With amount of high picks, Bills should have done better. Late-round choices also didn't produce and only player which remains in mid-round is punter John Kidd. Center Tony Slaton, a sixth-round pick, is still on the Los Angeles Rams' roster.
Cincinnati Bengals	Bengals had three No. 1 picks, but only one remains—offensive lineman Brian Blados. Linebacker Ricky Hunley was traded to Denver and defensive end Pete Koch is with Chiefs. Quarterback Boomer Esiason came on second round and running back Bill Johnson in supplemental.	8	4	2	18	8	2	Grade: B-. Overall draft was good. Re-member, No. 1 linebacker Ricky Hunley was traded after contract dispute. Late picks contributing are safety Barney Bussey (5th), linebacker Leo Barker (7th) and offensive linemen Bruce Reimers (8th) and Bruce Kozerski (9th).
Cleveland Browns	Three picks active from supplemental thanks to trade with Bears for their picks: running back Kevin Mack, linebacker Mike Johnson and wide receiver Gerald McNeil. Regular draft produced only safety Chris Rockins although drug death took No. 1 safety Don Rogers.	9	4	*1	16	7	1	Grade: B. Browns stunned by death of Rogers, who was playing at All-Pro level. Pair of fourth-rounders, tackle Ricky Bolden and wide receiver Brian Brennan, have helped. Solid No. 10 pick in running back Earnest Byner on choice acquired from Raiders for Henry Sheppard.
Denver Broncos	Solid selections resulted in defensive end Andre Townsend and safety Tony Lilly. Defensive end Freddie Gilbert and wide receiver Rick Massie came in supplemental. No first-round pick, but not to worry. It went to Colts year before for quarterback John Elway.	5	4	*1	14	9	1	Grade: B+. Solid contributions from tight end Clarence Kay (7th) and fullback Gene Lang (11th). Tackle Winford Hood (8th) and tight end Bobby Micho (10th) have also helped. Micho originally lost on recall waivers to San Diego. Also added undrafted free agent center Mike Freeman.
Houston Oilers	Bonanza aided Oilers' development. Regular draft brought guard Dean Steinkuhler (No. 1), defensive end Doug Smith and safety Bo Eason (No. 2s) and linebacker Johnny Meads (No. 3). Running back Mike Rozier (1st) and tackle Don Maggs (2nd) came in supplemental.	7	6	0	17	10	0	Grade: A. A draft that produces 10 players is excellent. After premium rounds, others added include cornerback Patrick Allen (4th), linebackers Robert Lyles (5th) and John Grimsley (6th) and safety Jeff Donaldson (10th). Defense was significantly upgraded in this draft.
Indianapolis Colts	Colts hit on one of two No. 1s: guard Ron Solt with pick obtained in John Elway deal. Other No. 1, cornerback Leonard Coleman, has been disappointment. Bombed on first supplemental pick with tight end Paul Bergmann but redemption came with No. 2 running back Albert Bentley.	7	3	*2	15	6	2	Grade: C+. Choice of Coleman with first-round pick brings overall grade down. Three contributors were added in mid-rounds: running back George Wonsley (4th), tackle Kevin Call (5th) and cornerback Eugene Daniel (8th). Wonsley and Call came with picks acquired in trades.
Kansas City Chiefs	Two first-rounders have produced although tackle John Alt has had back woes. Other No. 1, nose tackle Bill Maas, anchors defense. No. 2 linebacker Scott Radecic with Bills. No. 3 running back Herman Heard solid pick as well as No. 1 supplemental tackle Mark Adickes.	7	4	2	18	6	3	Grade: B-. Nine of 18 total picks finished '87 season on NFL rosters. Safety Mark Robinson (4th) traded in off-season to Tampa Bay in Steve DeBerg deal. No. 5 defensive end Eric Holle has provided defensive depth, while cornerback Kevin Ross (7th) was mid-round steal.
Los Angeles Raiders	A problem draft, although No. 1 went to New England for cornerback Mike Haynes. Solid choice in No. 2 defensive end Sean Jones, traded last April to Houston. Only supplemental active is No. 1 wide receiver Chris Woods. No. 2 linebacker Stewart Hill still playing in Canada.	5	1	1	11	5	1	Grade: C. Mid-round choices prevent draft from being total bust, although no standouts in group: tight end Andy Parker (5th), safety Stacey Toran (6th), defensive lineman Mitch Willis (7th) and cornerback Sam Seale (8th). No. 4 dealt for guard Charley Hannah.
Miami Dolphins	No. 1 linebacker Jackie Shipp has yet to fulfill expectations, especially considering Dolphins traded up and gave a No. 3 to pick him. No. 2 linebacker Jay Brophy played some but not well enough. Supplemental draft was complete washout with no players now active in football.	5	1	*1	15	2	1	Grade: D-. About as close to failure as possible. Only two picks still on team and three in NFL. After No. 1 Shipp, only other player in Miami is safety Bud Brown (11th). Running back Joe Carter (4th) showed some initial flashes, but was off-injured and inconsistent.
New England Patriots	Patriots gave two No. 1s to move up to first overall selection and pick wide receiver Irving Fryar, who has shown flashes but not consistency. No. 2 linebacker Ed Williams has become solid player. With depth at receiver, No. 1 supplemental Ricky Sanders traded to Washington.	6	3	1	15	5	*2	Grade: C+. Not one of the Patriots' better efforts of recent vintage, which indicates how weak overall draft was. The only picks from mid-rounds still around are guard Paul Fairchild (5th) and cornerback Ernest Gibson (6th). No. 7 wide receiver Derwin Williams played three seasons.
New York Jets	No. 2 center Jim Sweeney and No. 3 linebacker Kyle Clifton were best picks despite having two No. 1s which were busts: Cornerback Russell Carter frequently injured and traded to Raiders while defensive end Ron Fautot was washout. No production from supplemental picks.	8	*3	1	18	6	2	Grade: C. Some depth was provided with this draft, but no all-pros. Best of later picks are safety Harry Hamilton (7th) and nose tackle Tom Baldwin (9th). Tight end Billy Griggs (8th) has contributed. No. 6 fullback Tony Paige was early success and now with Detroit.
Pittsburgh Steelers	It was drafts like this that eschewed change in personnel department. No. 1 wide receiver Louis Lipps solid pick but No. 2 tight end Chris Kolodziejski a bust. No. 3 went to Miami for quarterback David Woodley. Steelers also got no pro games from any supplemental picks.	5	1	0	15	3	2	Grade: C-. Not much to shout about after Lipps, although wide receiver Weegie Thompson (4th) and guard Terry Long (5th) have produced. Those are only three from draft. Running back Rich Erenberg (9th) was solid role player for two seasons until career ended with knee injury.
San Diego Chargers	No. 1 supplemental defensive end Lee Williams saved this draft. Regular No. 1 cornerback Mossy Cade went to USFL, was traded to Packers and is now in jail. No. 2 linebacker Mike Guendling blew out knee. Third-round choice went to St. Louis for defensive back Ken Greene.	5	1	1	13	2	3	Grade: C-. Supplemental pick Williams and wide receiver Lionel James (5th) are only players from draft with Chargers. Running back Buford McGee (11th) was used in deal to acquire running back Barry Redden from Rams. No. 8 defensive lineman Ken Woodard with Chiefs.
Seattle Seahawks	Good performances from all three regular picks: No. 1 cornerback Terry Taylor, No. 2 wide receiver Daryl Turner and No. 3 linebacker Freddy Young. Turner has been inconsistent but is still a major threat. No. 2 supplemental guard Alvin Powell has strengthened offensive line.	6	4	*2	13	5	4	Grade: B. After success in early rounds, running back Randall Morris (10th) only other player active. Linebacker John Kaiser (6th) with Bills and guard Adam Schreiber (9th) with Eagles. Undrafted free agent defensive end Randy Edwards used in deal to acquire Ron Heller.



Football Focus

By HOWARD BALZER

The Fumblers

National Football League teams are always looking for ways to improve. And the running back position usually receives the most attention after quarterback.

An argument can be made that running backs are the most precious of commodities. Teams have proven that it's possible to win a Super Bowl without a high-profile quarterback. But winning the championship game without a top-flight ground game is difficult.

Running backs are susceptible to injury and durability is necessary. Having a back who doesn't fumble also helps.

Interesting points can be discerned about NFL teams and their running backs from the accompanying chart that shows the regularity with which backs fumble. Included are all runners with 140 or more attempts in 1987. Attempts include rushing carries, receptions and kick returns.

Players are ranked according to their fumble ratio for the 1987 season. If a ratio is 40.0, for example, that means the player fumbled every 40 times he carried the ball.

At the top are Cincinnati's Larry Kinnebrew and Freeman McNeil of the New York Jets, who both fumbled just once last season while carrying the ball only 154 and 145 times, respectively.

At the bottom is Cleveland Browns running back Earnest Byner, whose ratio was 31.6. Not surprising was Byner's critical fumble as he headed for the apparent winning touchdown in the AFC Championship Game against Denver.

Other intriguing names are near the top of the list. There had been frequent reports that the Giants weren't happy with running back Joe Morris. However, Morris fumbled just twice in 204 attempts and his career ratio is 61.6.

Neal Anderson is expected to take over the Chicago Bears' main running chores in 1988 and it's no surprise. Anderson fumbled just twice in 176 attempts while retired running back Walter Payton fumbled five times in 179. Payton's final career ratio is still a strong 50.5.

The Buffalo Bills have made no secret that they believe Ronnie Harmon cannot withstand the rigors as a featured back. In 172 attempts last season, which included 56 receptions, he fumbled just twice.

Also of note are players with prior United States Football League experience. All have better career ratios in the NFL than

they did in the USFL. The most significant improvement came from Indianapolis' Albert Bentley, who fumbled seven times in 279 USFL attempts but only six times in 420 NFL attempts.

	—1987 Season—			—NFL Career—		
	Att.	Fum.	Ratio	Att.	Fum.	Ratio
Larry Kinnebrew, Cincinnati.....	154	1	154.0	705	18	39.2
Freeman McNeil, N.Y. Jets.....	145	1	145.0	1497	38	39.4
Joe Morris, N.Y. Giants.....	204	2	102.0	1109	18	61.6
Earnest Jackson, Pittsburgh.....	187	2	93.5	1075	12	89.6
Neal Anderson, Chicago.....	176	2	88.0	219	3	73.0
Ronnie Harmon, Buffalo.....	172	2	86.0	266	4	66.5
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders.....	251	3	83.7	1823	40	45.6
George Rogers, Washington.....	167	2	83.5	1747	45	38.8
Stump Mitchell, Phoenix.....	248	3	82.7	1285	30	42.8
Darrin Nelson, Minnesota.....	157	2	78.5	1117	23	48.6
John L. Williams, Seattle.....	151	2	75.5	313	3	104.3
Johnny Hector, N.Y. Jets.....	143	2	71.5	692	10	69.2
Herschel Walker, Dallas.....	269	4	67.3	496	9	55.1
(In USFL).....	.....	.....	.....	1276	27	47.3
Albert Bentley, Indianapolis.....	198	3	66.0	420	6	70.0
(In USFL).....	.....	.....	.....	279	7	39.9
Curt Warner, Seattle.....	251	4	62.8	1337	24	55.7
Gerald Riggs, Atlanta.....	228	4	57.0	1655	29	57.1
Roger Craig, San Francisco.....	281	5	56.2	1322	23	57.5
Mike Rozier, Houston.....	256	5	51.2	621	14	44.4
(In USFL).....	.....	.....	.....	625	18	34.7
Tony Dorsett, Dallas.....	149	3	49.7	3137	84	37.3
James Wilder, Tampa Bay.....	146	3	48.7	1799	41	43.9
Frank Pollard, Pittsburgh.....	142	3	47.3	1047	29	36.1
Charles White, L.A. Rams.....	350	8	43.8	851	24	35.5
Eric Dickerson, Rams-Ind.....	301	7	43.0	1884	56	33.6
Sammy Winder, Denver.....	210	5	42.0	1343	24	56.0
Dalton Hilliard, New Orleans.....	156	4	39.0	294	7	42.0
Kevin Mack, Cleveland.....	233	6	38.8	686	16	42.9
(In USFL).....	.....	.....	.....	82	3	27.3
Gary Anderson, San Diego.....	149	4	37.3	569	14	40.6
(In USFL).....	.....	.....	.....	817	26	31.4
Walter Abercrombie, Pittsburgh.....	147	4	36.8	987	15	65.8
Christian Okoye, Kansas City.....	181	5	36.2	181	5	36.2
Walter Payton, Chicago.....	179	5	35.8	4347	86	50.5
Troy Stradford, Miami.....	207	6	34.5	207	6	34.5
Anthony Toney, Philadelphia.....	166	5	33.2	248	5	49.6
Rueben Mayes, New Orleans.....	258	8	32.3	571	12	47.6
Tony Collins, New England.....	192	6	32.0	1520	42	36.2
Earnest Byner, Cleveland.....	158	5	31.6	683	14	48.8

On the Plus Side

It's an accepted fact of football life that quarterbacks are expected to throw more touchdown passes than interceptions. Of the 26 quarterbacks with enough attempts to qualify for the NFL passing title in 1987, 18 had more touchdowns than interceptions.

The accompanying chart shows a ratio for each qualifying quarterback. A rating of 2.00 means the passer threw exactly twice as many touchdowns as interceptions. A rating of 1.00 is the result of throwing the same number of touchdowns and interceptions.

Players are ranked according to their '87 rating. Miami's Dan Marino is the only quarterback with a career rating higher than 2.00.

	—1987 Season—			—NFL Career—		
	Tds.	Int.	Ratio	Tds.	Int.	Ratio
Bernie Kosar, Cleveland.....	22	9	2.44	47	26	1.81
Joe Montana, San Francisco.....	31	13	2.38	172	89	1.93
Dan Marino, Miami.....	26	13	2.00	168	80	2.10
Neil Lomax, Phoenix.....	24	12	2.00	116	79	1.47
Steve DeBerg, Tampa Bay.....	14	7	2.00	116	139	0.83
Randall Cunningham, Philadelphia.....	23	12	1.92	32	27	1.19
Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants.....	17	9	1.89	121	112	1.08
Jim Kelly, Buffalo.....	19	11	1.73	41	28	1.46
Bobby Hebert, New Orleans.....	15	9	1.67	22	21	1.05
Bill Kenney, Kansas City.....	15	9	1.67	105	81	1.30
Ken O'Brien, N.Y. Jets.....	13	8	1.63	69	43	1.60
John Elway, Denver.....	19	12	1.58	85	77	1.10
Dave Krieg, Seattle.....	23	15	1.53	130	88	1.48
Jim McMahon, Chicago.....	12	8	1.50	61	49	1.24
Marc Wilson, L.A. Raiders.....	12	8	1.50	77	86	0.90
Jay Schroeder, Washington.....	12	10	1.20	39	37	1.05
Warren Moon, Houston.....	21	18	1.17	61	77	0.79
Wade Wilson, Minnesota.....	14	13	1.08	30	36	0.83
Jack Trudeau, Indianapolis.....	6	6	1.00	14	24	0.58
Boomer Esiason, Cincinnati.....	16	19	0.84	70	51	1.37
Scott Campbell, Atlanta.....	11	14	0.79	16	21	0.76
Jim Everett, L.A. Rams.....	10	13	0.77	18	21	0.86
Danny White, Dallas.....	12	17	0.71	154	129	1.19
Dan Fouts, San Diego.....	10	15	0.67	254	242	1.05
Chuck Long, Detroit.....	11	20	0.55	13	22	0.59
Randy Wright, Green Bay.....	6	11	0.55	27	44	0.61
Mark Malone, Pittsburgh.....	6	19	0.32	54	68	0.79



Cincinnati's Larry Kinnebrew topped the NFL charts by fumbling only once on 154 carries last season.

Week-by-Week Schedule

Preseason Games

(All times local)

HALL OF FAME GAME

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Cincinnati vs. Los Angeles Rams at Canton, O.2:00

FIRST WEEK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

Denver at Los Angeles Rams7:00

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

Buffalo at Houston7:00

Phoenix at Seattle7:30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

Pittsburgh at Washington8:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Atlanta at New England7:00

Cincinnati at Kansas City7:35

Dallas at San Diego6:00

Detroit at Cleveland7:00

Indianapolis at Tampa Bay6:00

Los Angeles Raiders at San Francisco7:00

Miami at Chicago6:00

New York Giants at Green Bay7:00

New York Jets at Philadelphia7:30

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

New Orleans at Minnesota7:00

SECOND WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Seattle at Detroit7:30

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Cincinnati at Buffalo7:30

Cleveland at Tampa Bay7:00

Dallas at Los Angeles Raiders1:00

Green Bay at Indianapolis7:30

Houston vs. New England at Memphis, Tenn.7:00

Kansas City at Atlanta7:30

New Orleans at Phoenix7:30

New York Jets vs. New York Giants8:00

San Diego at Los Angeles Rams7:00

San Francisco at Denver7:00

Washington at Miami8:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Chicago vs. Minnesota at Gothenburg, Sweden ...1:00

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh8:00

THIRD WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

Cleveland vs. New York Jets at Montreal7:30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Buffalo at Seattle7:30

Denver at Miami9:00

Kansas City vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Detroit at Cincinnati7:30

Houston at Los Angeles Rams7:00

New England at Philadelphia7:30

New Orleans at Indianapolis7:30

Pittsburgh at New York Giants8:00

San Francisco at San Diego6:00

Tampa Bay at Atlanta7:30

Washington at Los Angeles Raiders7:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Minnesota at Phoenix5:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

Chicago at Dallas7:00

FOURTH WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Buffalo vs. Tampa Bay at Nashville, Tenn.7:00

Indianapolis at Denver6:00

Philadelphia at Detroit7:30

Phoenix at Kansas City5:30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Cincinnati at New England7:00

Los Angeles Raiders at Chicago8:00

Los Angeles Rams at San Diego8:00

Miami at Minnesota8:00

New York Giants at Cleveland9:00

Seattle at San Francisco6:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Atlanta vs. Washington at Birmingham, Ala.12:00

Houston at Dallas8:00

New York Jets vs. Green Bay at Madison, Wis.1:00

Pittsburgh at New Orleans11:30

Regular Season

(All times local)

FIRST WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

1. Atlanta at Detroit1:00

2. Cleveland at Kansas City3:00

3. Dallas at Pittsburgh1:00

4. Houston at Indianapolis3:00

5. Los Angeles Rams at Green Bay12:00

6. Miami at Chicago12:00

7. Minnesota at Buffalo1:00

8. New York Jets at New England4:00

9. Philadelphia at Tampa Bay1:00

10. Phoenix at Cincinnati1:00

11. San Diego at Los Angeles Raiders1:00

12. San Francisco at New Orleans12:00

13. Seattle at Denver2:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

14. Washington at New York Giants9:00

SECOND WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

15. Chicago at Indianapolis12:00

16. Cincinnati at Philadelphia4:00

17. Detroit at Los Angeles Rams1:00

18. Kansas City at Seattle1:00

19. Los Angeles Raiders at Houston3:00

20. Miami at Buffalo1:00

21. New England at Minnesota3:00

22. New Orleans at Atlanta1:00

23. New York Jets at Cleveland4:00

24. Pittsburgh at Washington1:00

25. San Diego at Denver2:00

26. San Francisco at New York Giants1:00

27. Tampa Bay at Green Bay12:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

28. Dallas at Phoenix6:00

THIRD WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

29. Atlanta at San Francisco1:00

30. Buffalo at New England1:00

31. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh1:00

32. Denver at Kansas City12:00

33. Green Bay at Miami1:00

34. Houston at New York Jets1:00

35. Los Ang. Rams at Los Ang. Raiders1:00

36. Minnesota at Chicago12:00

37. New Orleans at Detroit1:00

38. New York Giants at Dallas3:00

39. Philadelphia at Washington1:00

40. Phoenix at Tampa Bay1:00

41. Seattle at San Diego1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

42. Indianapolis at Cleveland8:00

FOURTH WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

43. Atlanta at Dallas12:00

44. Chicago at Green Bay12:00

45. Cleveland at Cincinnati1:00

46. Los Angeles Rams at New York Giants4:00

47. Miami at Indianapolis12:00

48. New England at Houston12:00

49. New York Jets at Detroit1:00

50. Philadelphia at Minnesota12:00

51. Pittsburgh at Buffalo1:00

52. San Diego at Kansas City3:00

53. San Francisco at Seattle1:00

54. Tampa Bay at New Orleans12:00

55. Washington at Phoenix1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

56. Los Angeles Raiders at Denver6:00

FIFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

57. Buffalo at Chicago12:00

58. Cincinnati at Los Angeles Raiders1:00

59. Cleveland at Pittsburgh1:00

60. Denver at San Diego1:00

61. Detroit at San Francisco1:00

62. Green Bay at Tampa Bay1:00

63. Houston at Philadelphia1:00

64. Indianapolis at New England1:00

65. Kansas City at New York Jets4:00

66. Minnesota at Miami4:00

67. New York Giants at Washington1:00

68. Phoenix at Los Angeles Rams1:00

69. Seattle at Atlanta1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

70. Dallas at New Orleans8:00

SIXTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

71. Chicago at Detroit1:00

72. Denver at San Francisco1:00

73. Indianapolis at Buffalo1:00

74. Kansas City at Houston12:00

75. Los Angeles Rams at Atlanta1:00

76. Miami at Los Angeles Raiders1:00

77. New England vs. Green Bay at Milw.12:00

78. New Orleans at San Diego1:00

79. New York Jets at Cincinnati1:00

80. Pittsburgh at Phoenix1:00

81. Seattle at Cleveland1:00

82. Tampa Bay at Minnesota12:00

83. Washington at Dallas12:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

84. New York Giants at Philadelphia9:00

SEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

85. Atlanta at Denver2:00

86. Cincinnati at New England1:00

87. Dallas at Chicago12:00

88. Detroit at New York Giants1:00

89. Green Bay at Minnesota12:00

90. Houston at Pittsburgh1:00

91. Los Angeles Raiders at Kansas City12:00

92. New Orleans at Seattle1:00

93. Philadelphia at Cleveland1:00

94. Phoenix at Washington1:00

95. San Diego at Miami1:00

96. San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams1:00

97. Tampa Bay at Indianapolis12:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

98. Buffalo at New York Jets9:00

EIGHTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

99. Cleveland at Phoenix1:00

100. Dallas at Philadelphia1:00

101. Denver at Pittsburgh1:00

102. Detroit at Kansas City12:00

103. Houston at Cincinnati1:00

104. Indianapolis at San Diego1:00

105. Los Angeles Raiders at New Orleans12:00

106. Minnesota at Tampa Bay1:00

107. New England at Buffalo1:00

108. New York Giants at Atlanta1:00

109. New York Jets at Miami4:00

110. Seattle at Los Angeles Rams1:00

111. Washington vs. Green Bay at Milw.12:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

112. San Francisco at Chicago8:00

NINTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

113. Atlanta at Philadelphia1:00

114. Chicago at New England1:00

115. Cincinnati at Cleveland1:00

116. Green Bay at Buffalo1:00

117. Kansas City at Los Angeles Raiders1:00

118. Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans12:00

119. Miami at Tampa Bay1:00

120. Minnesota at San Francisco1:00

121. New York Giants at Detroit1:00

122. Phoenix at Dallas12:00

123. Pittsburgh at New York Jets1:00

124. San Diego at Seattle1:00

125. Washington at Houston7:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

126. Denver at Indianapolis9:00

Continued

1988 Schedule Difficulty

The following chart rates the strength of 1988 schedules according to the 1987 won-lost records of '88 opponents. The number in parentheses immediately after each team is that club's record for last season, while the number in parentheses after each column indicates how the team's out-of-division, in-division and overall schedule difficulty ranks in relation to the entire league.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division (38-37, .507)

	Out of Div.	In Div.	Overall
Washington (11-4).....	.604 (1)	.450 (T24)	.527 (4)
Dallas (7-8).....	.542 (7)	.517 (T 8)	.529 (3)
Phoenix (7-8).....	.496 (T15)	.517 (T 8)	.506 (T9)
Philadelphia (7-8).....	.433 (T26)	.517 (T 8)	.475 (24)
New York Giants (6-9).....	.433 (T26)	.533 (T 5)	.483 (23)

Central Division (32-42-1, .433)

	Out of Div.	In Div.	Overall
Chicago (11-4).....	.575 (T 3)	.358 (28)	.467 (28)
Minnesota (8-7).....	.592 (2)	.408 (27)	.500 (T15)
Green Bay (5-9-1).....	.492 (17)	.450 (T24)	.471 (T25)
Detroit (4-11).....	.467 (T21)	.475 (T18)	.471 (T25)
Tampa Bay (4-11).....	.508 (T12)	.475 (T18)	.492 (T18)

Western Division (34-26, .567)

	Out of Div.	In Div.	Overall
San Francisco (13-2).....	.530 (8)	.467 (T21)	.506 (T 9)
New Orleans (12-3).....	.483 (20)	.489 (T15)	.485 (T21)
Los Angeles Rams (6-9).....	.487 (T18)	.622 (2)	.538 (1)
Atlanta (3-12).....	.440 (25)	.689 (1)	.533 (2)

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division (38-37, .507)

	Out of Div.	In Div.	Overall
Indianapolis (9-6).....	.550 (6)	.483 (17)	.517 (T 6)
New England (8-7).....	.508 (T12)	.500 (T13)	.504 (T12)
Miami (8-7).....	.496 (T15)	.500 (T13)	.498 (17)
Buffalo (7-8).....	.454 (23)	.517 (T 8)	.485 (T21)
New York Jets (6-9).....	.408 (28)	.533 (T 5)	.471 (T25)

Central Division (31-29, .517)

	Out of Div.	In Div.	Overall
Cleveland (10-5).....	.523 (10)	.467 (T21)	.502 (14)
Houston (9-6).....	.487 (T18)	.489 (T15)	.488 (20)
Pittsburgh (8-7).....	.503 (14)	.511 (12)	.506 (T9)
Cincinnati (4-11).....	.467 (T21)	.600 (3)	.517 (T6)

Western Division (36-38-1, .487)

	Out of Div.	In Div.	Overall
Denver (10-4-1).....	.575 (T3)	.433 (26)	.504 (T12)
Seattle (9-6).....	.567 (5)	.458 (23)	.513 (8)
San Diego (8-7).....	.525 (9)	.475 (T18)	.500 (T15)
Los Angeles Raiders (5-10).....	.517 (11)	.525 (7)	.521 (5)
Kansas City (4-11).....	.442 (24)	.542 (4)	.492 (T18)

TENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

127. Buffalo at Seattle.....	1:00
128. Dallas at New York Giants.....	1:00
129. Detroit at Minnesota.....	12:00
130. Green Bay at Atlanta.....	1:00
131. Kansas City at Denver.....	2:00
132. Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia.....	1:00
133. Miami at New England.....	1:00
134. New Orleans at Washington.....	4:00
135. New York Jets at Indianapolis.....	4:00
136. Pittsburgh at Cincinnati.....	1:00
137. San Francisco at Phoenix.....	2:00
138. Tampa Bay at Chicago.....	12:00
139. Los Angeles Raiders at San Diego.....	5:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

140. Cleveland at Houston.....	8:00
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ELEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

141. Chicago at Washington.....	1:00
142. Cincinnati at Kansas City.....	12:00
143. Cleveland at Denver.....	2:00
144. Houston at Seattle.....	1:00
145. Indianapolis at Green Bay.....	12:00
146. Los Angeles Raiders at San Francisco.....	1:00
147. New England at New York Jets.....	1:00
148. New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
149. New York Giants at Phoenix.....	2:00
150. Philadelphia at Pittsburgh.....	1:00
151. San Diego at Atlanta.....	1:00
152. Tampa Bay at Detroit.....	1:00
153. Minnesota at Dallas.....	7:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

154. Buffalo at Miami.....	9:00
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TWELFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

155. Atlanta at Los Angeles Raiders.....	1:00
156. Chicago at Tampa Bay.....	1:00
157. Cincinnati at Dallas.....	12:00
158. Denver at New Orleans.....	12:00
159. Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee.....	12:00
160. Indianapolis at Minnesota.....	12:00
161. New York Jets at Buffalo.....	1:00
162. Philadelphia at New York Giants.....	4:00
163. Phoenix at Houston.....	12:00
164. Pittsburgh at Cleveland.....	1:00
165. San Diego at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
166. Seattle at Kansas City.....	12:00
167. New England at Miami.....	8:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

168. Washington at San Francisco.....	6:00
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THIRTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

169. Minnesota at Detroit.....	12:30
170. Houston at Dallas.....	3:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

171. Buffalo at Cincinnati.....	1:00
172. Cleveland at Washington.....	1:00
173. Green Bay at Chicago.....	12:00
174. Kansas City at Pittsburgh.....	1:00
175. Los Angeles Rams at Denver.....	2:00
176. Miami at New York Jets.....	1:00
177. New England at Indianapolis.....	4:00
178. Phoenix at Philadelphia.....	1:00
179. San Francisco at San Diego.....	1:00
180. Tampa Bay at Atlanta.....	1:00
181. New York Giants at New Orleans.....	7:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

182. Los Angeles Raiders at Seattle.....	6:00
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FOURTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

183. Buffalo at Tampa Bay.....	1:00
184. Dallas at Cleveland.....	1:00
185. Denver at Los Angeles Raiders.....	1:00
186. Green Bay at Detroit.....	1:00
187. Indianapolis at Miami.....	1:00
188. New Orleans at Minnesota.....	12:00
189. New York Jets at Kansas City.....	3:00
190. Phoenix at New York Giants.....	1:00
191. San Diego at Cincinnati.....	1:00
192. San Francisco at Atlanta.....	1:00
193. Seattle at New England.....	1:00
194. Washington at Philadelphia.....	1:00
195. Pittsburgh at Houston.....	7:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

196. Chicago at Los Angeles Rams.....	6:00
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FIFTEENTH WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

197. Indianapolis at New York Jets.....	12:30
198. Philadelphia at Phoenix.....	2:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

199. Atlanta at Los Angeles Rams.....	1:00
200. Cincinnati at Houston.....	12:00
201. Dallas at Washington.....	1:00
202. Detroit at Chicago.....	12:00
203. Kansas City at New York Giants.....	1:00
204. Los Angeles Raiders at Buffalo.....	1:00
205. Minnesota at Green Bay.....	12:00
206. New Orleans at San Francisco.....	1:00
207. Pittsburgh at San Diego.....	1:00
208. Tampa Bay at New England.....	1:00
209. Denver at Seattle.....	5:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

210. Cleveland at Miami.....	9:00
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SIXTEENTH WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

211. New England at Denver.....	2:00
212. Washington at Cincinnati.....	12:30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

213. Atlanta at New Orleans.....	12:00
214. Buffalo at Indianapolis.....	1:00
215. Detroit at Tampa Bay.....	1:00
216. Green Bay at Phoenix.....	2:00
217. Houston at Cleveland.....	1:00
218. Kansas City at San Diego.....	1:00
219. Miami at Pittsburgh.....	1:00
220. New York Giants at New York Jets.....	1:00
221. Philadelphia at Dallas.....	12:00
222. Seattle at Los Angeles Raiders.....	1:00
223. Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco.....	5:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

224. Chicago at Minnesota.....	8:00
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Team Rushing

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs.
San Francisco.....	524	2237	4.3	35	11
New Orleans.....	569	2190	3.8	38	20
Washington.....	500	2102	4.2	31	18
L.A. Rams.....	512	2097	4.1	58	15
Philadelphia.....	509	2027	4.0	45	12
Minnesota.....	482	1983	4.1	72	20
Chicago.....	485	1954	4.0	138	13
St. Louis.....	462	1873	4.1	42	15
Dallas.....	465	1865	4.0	162	17
Green Bay.....	464	1801	3.9	61	13
N.Y. Giants.....	440	1457	3.3	34	4
Detroit.....	398	1435	3.6	33	9
Tampa Bay.....	394	1365	3.5	46	7
Atlanta.....	333	1298	3.9	44	5
Conference Total.....	6537	25684	.....	72	179
Conference Average.....	466.9	1834.6	3.9	.....	12.8
League Total.....	13189	52044	.....	191	361

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs.
L.A. Raiders.....	475	2197	4.6	191	13
Cincinnati.....	538	2164	4.0	52	13
Pittsburgh.....	517	2144	4.1	51	11
Indianapolis.....	497	2143	4.3	53	14
Seattle.....	496	2023	4.1	157	13
Denver.....	510	1970	3.9	29	18
Houston.....	486	1923	4.0	41	12
Buffalo.....	465	1840	4.0	30	9
Kansas City.....	419	1799	4.3	164	7
New England.....	513	1771	3.5	49	12
Cleveland.....	474	1745	3.7	35	16
N.Y. Jets.....	458	1671	3.6	32	17
Miami.....	408	1662	4.1	51	16
San Diego.....	396	1308	3.3	25	11
Conference Total.....	6652	26360	.....	191	182
Conference Average.....	475.1	1882.9	4.0	.....	13.0
League Average.....	471.0	1858.7	3.9	.....	12.9

Individual Rushing

NFC

Player—Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
WHITE, Rams.....	324	1374	4.2	58	11
Mayes, N.O.....	243	917	3.8	38	5
H. Walker, Dall.....	209	891	4.3	160	7
Riggs, Atl.....	203	875	4.3	44	2
Craig, S.F.....	215	815	3.8	25	3
Mitchell, St.L.....	203	781	3.8	42	3
Morris, Giants.....	193	658	3.4	34	3
D. Nelson, Minn.....	131	642	4.9	72	2
Rogers, Wash.....	163	613	3.8	29	6
Anderson, Chi.....	129	586	4.5	138	3
W. Payton, Chi.....	146	533	3.7	17	4
Ferrell, St.L.....	113	512	4.5	135	7
Hilliard, N.O.....	123	508	4.1	130	7
Cunningham, Phil.....	76	505	6.6	45	3
Wilder, T.B.....	106	488	4.6	21	0
Toney, Phil.....	127	473	3.7	36	5
Dorsett, Dall.....	130	456	3.5	24	1
Byars, Phil.....	116	426	3.7	30	3
Davis, G.B.....	109	413	3.8	103	3
Bryant, Wash.....	77	406	5.3	28	1
Vital, Wash.....	80	346	4.3	22	2
Jones, Det.....	96	342	3.6	19	0
Anderson, Minn.....	68	319	4.7	27	2
J. Smith, T.B.....	100	309	3.1	46	2
Cribbs, S.F.....	70	300	4.3	20	1
Fullwood, G.B.....	84	274	3.3	18	5
James, Det.....	82	270	3.3	17	4
W. Wilson, Minn.....	41	263	6.4	38	5
Dozier, Minn.....	69	257	3.7	19	5
Rathman, S.F.....	62	257	4.1	35	1
Willite, G.B.....	53	251	4.7	61	0
Griffin, Wash.....	62	242	3.9	13	0
McAdoo, St.L.....	53	230	4.3	17	3
Beverly, N.O.....	62	217	3.5	25	2
Clark, G.B.....	56	211	3.8	57	0
E. Hunter, Jets-T.B.....	56	210	3.8	23	0
Ellerson, Det.....	47	196	4.2	33	3
Caruth, G.B.....	64	192	3.0	23	3
Young, S.F.....	26	190	7.3	129	1
Bernard, Det.....	45	187	4.2	14	2
Fenney, Minn.....	42	174	4.1	12	2
Adams, Giants.....	61	169	2.8	14	1
Haddix, Phil.....	59	165	2.8	11	0
Rouson, Giants.....	41	155	3.8	14	0
Pelluer, Dall.....	25	142	5.7	21	1
Montana, S.F.....	35	141	4.0	20	1
Francis, Rams.....	35	138	3.9	23	0
R. Brown, Phil.....	39	136	3.5	23	0
J. Fourcade, N.O.....	19	134	7.1	18	0
Word, N.O.....	36	133	3.7	20	2
Rice, Minn.....	51	131	2.6	13	1
Heimuli, Chi.....	34	128	3.8	12	0
Majkowski, G.B.....	15	127	8.5	33	0
Smith, Wash.....	29	126	4.3	15	0
Blount, Dall.....	46	125	2.7	15	3
Sydney, S.F.....	29	125	4.3	15	0
Sanders, Chi.....	23	122	5.3	17	1
Newsome, Dall.....	25	121	4.8	24	2
Schroeder, Wash.....	26	120	4.6	31	3
Robinson, Phil.....	24	114	4.8	18	0
Wester, Det.....	33	113	3.4	14	0
Wright, T.B.....	37	112	3.0	11	0
V. Williams, Giants.....	29	108	3.7	17	0
Lomax, St.L.....	29	107	3.7	19	0
Campbell, Atl.....	21	102	4.9	24	2

Player—Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Howard, T.B.....	30	100	3.3	31	1
Guman, Rams.....	36	98	2.7	7	1
Hebert, N.O.....	13	95	7.3	19	0
DiRico, Giants.....	25	90	3.6	14	0
Sargent, St.L.....	18	90	5.0	16	0
McMahon, Chi.....	22	88	4.0	13	2
Thomas, Chi.....	25	88	3.5	18	0
Badanjek, Atl.....	29	87	3.0	31	1
Wolfley, St.L.....	26	87	3.3	8	1
Bell, Buff.-Rams.....	22	86	3.9	13	0
Everett, Rams.....	18	83	4.6	16	1
Varajan, S.F.....	18	82	4.6	11	0
Woolfolk, Det.....	12	82	6.8	31	0
Mosley, Chi.....	18	80	4.4	16	0
Ricks, T.B.....	24	76	3.2	14	1
Galbreath, Giants.....	10	74	7.4	17	0
Settle, Atl.....	19	72	3.8	12	0
Alexander, N.O.....	21	71	3.4	16	1
Wright, G.B.....	13	70	5.4	27	0
Edwards, Det.....	32	69	2.2	13	0
Hold, T.B.....	7	69	9.9	35	0
Tautalatasi, Phil.....	26	69	2.7	17	0
Cherry, S.F.....	13	65	5.0	16	1
Long, Det.....	22	64	2.9	15	0
Risher, G.B.....	11	64	5.8	15	1
Monk, Wash.....	6	63	10.5	26	0
Edwards, Dall.....	2	61	30.5	162	1
Flowers, Atl.....	14	61	4.4	14	0
Carthon, Giants.....	26	60	2.3	10	0
Hohensee, Chi.....	9	56	6.2	26	0
Brewer, Chi.....	24	55	2.3	16	2
W. Wilson, Wash.....	18	55	3.1	11	2
Ross, Phil.....	14	54	3.9	12	1
Tomczak, Chi.....	18	54	3.0	10	1
Rice, S.F.....	8	51	6.4	17	1
Testaverde, T.B.....	13	50	3.8	17	1
Adams, Dall.....	7	49	7.0	127	1
Hons, Det.....	5	49	9.8	23	0
M. Williams, Atl.....	14	49	3.5	9	0
Hardy, S.F.....	7	48	6.9	14	0
Rodgers, S.F.....	11	46	4.2	15	1
Stevens, S.F.....	10	45	4.5	16	1
Kramer, Minn.....	10	44	4.4	15	2
Simms, Giants.....	14	44	3.1	20	0
Tyrrell, Rams.....	11	44	4.0	13	0
Gentry, Chi.....	6	41	6.8	12	0
Hargrove, G.B.....	11	38	3.5	7	1
Stanley, G.B.....	4	38	9.5	24	0
Gray, N.O.....	8	37	4.6	12	1
Jessie, Wash.....	10	37	3.7	114	1
Brim, Minn.....	2	36	18.0	138	1
Jordan, N.O.....	12	36	3.0	18	2
Rodenberger, N.O.....	17	35	2.1	5	0
Green, St.L.....	2	34	17.0	26	1
DuBoise, S.F.....	10	33	3.3	11	0
Parker, G.B.....	8	33	4.1	17	0
Austin, T.B.....	19	32	1.7	8	1
Teltschik, Phil.....	3	32	10.7	23	0
Adams, Minn.....	11	31	2.8	12	0
Garza, St.L.....	8	31	3.9	10	1
Rubbert, Wash.....	9	31	3.4	14	0
Rutledge, Giants.....	15	31	2.1	20	0
Bartalo, T.B.....	9	30	3.3	6	1
Gladman, T.B.....	12	29	2.4	6	0
S. Williams, Det.....	8	29	3.6	8	0
S. Payton, Chi.....	1	28	28.0	28	0
T. Wilson, Wash.....	2	28	14.0	116	1
Jackson, Phil.....	6	27	4.5	10	0

Player—Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Monroe, S.F.....	2	26	13.0	17	0
Weigel, G.B.....	10	26	2.6	7	0
Suhey, Chi.....	7	24	3.4	6	0
A. Walker, Minn.....	5	24	4.8	11	0
F. Harris, Chi.....	6	23	3.8	18	0
Beecham, Giants.....	5	22	4.4	10	0
Ro. Brown, Rams.....	2	22	11.0	11	0
Dollinger, Det.....	8	22	2.8	8	0
C. Miller, Atl.....	4	21	5.3	11	0
Grant, Phil.....	1	20	20.0	20	0
Land, T.B.....	9	20	2.2	6	0
Sterling, G.B.....	5	20	4.0	9	0
Womack, Minn.....	9	20	2.2	13	0
L. Thomas, G.B.....	5	19	3.8	5	0
Baker, Giants.....	1	18	18.0	18	0
Jean-Batiste, N.O.....	8	18	2.3	7	0
La. Morris, G.B.....	8	18	2.3	10	0
Gault, Chi.....	2	16	8.0	9	0
B. Wilson, Minn.....	5	16	3.2	6	0
Harbaugh, Chi.....	4	15	3.8	9	0

AFC

Player—Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
DICKERSON, LA-Ind.	283	1288	4.6	57	6
Warner, Sea.	234	985	4.2	157	8
Rozier, Hou.	229	957	4.2	41	3
Allen, Raiders	200	754	3.8	44	5
Winder, Den.	196	741	3.8	19	6
Mack, Clev.	201	735	3.7	122	5
Jackson, Pitt.	180	696	3.9	39	1
Okoye, K.C.	157	660	4.2	143	3
Bentley, Ind.	142	631	4.4	117	7
Stradford, Mia.	145	619	4.3	51	6
Kinnebrew, Cin.	145	570	3.9	52	8
B. Jackson, Raiders	81	554	6.8	191	4
Pollard, Pitt.	128	536	4.2	33	3
McNeil, Jets	121	530	4.4	30	0
Jo. Williams, Sea.	113	500	4.4	48	1
Harmon, Buff.	116	485	4.2	21	2
Collins, N.E.	147	474	3.2	19	3
Heard, K.C.	82	466	5.7	164	3
Abercrombie, Pitt.	123	459	3.7	128	2
Hector, Jets	111	435	3.9	120	11
Byner, Clev.	105	432	4.1	21	8
Mueller, Buff.	82	354	4.3	20	2
Adams, S.D.	90	343	3.8	24	1
Dupard, N.E.	94	318	3.4	49	3
Jennings, Cin.	70	314	4.5	18	1
Elway, Den.	66	304	4.6	29	4
Lang, Den.	89	303	3.4	28	2
Brooks, Cin.	94	290	3.1	18	1
Hampton, Mia.	75	289	3.9	34	1
Byrum, Buff.	66	280	4.2	30	0
G. Anderson, S.D.	80	260	3.3	25	3
Vick, Jets	77	257	3.3	14	1
Tatupu, N.E.	79	248	3.1	19	0
C. Banks, Ind.	50	245	4.9	35	0
Esiason, Cin.	52	241	4.6	19	0
Jackson, Hou.	60	232	3.9	116	1
Ti. Spencer, S.D.	73	228	3.1	16	0
Riddick, Buff.	59	221	3.7	25	5
Mason, Clev.	56	207	3.7	22	2
B. Johnson, Cin.	39	205	5.3	20	1
Logan, Cin.	37	203	5.5	51	1
R. Scott, Mia.	47	199	4.2	24	3
Perryman, N.E.	41	187	4.6	48	0

RUSHING—Continued

Player—Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
R. Porter, Buff.	47	177	3.8	13	0
Mueller, Raiders	37	175	4.7	35	1
LeBlanc, N.E.	49	170	3.5	42	1
Malone, Pitt.	34	162	4.8	42	3
Krieg, Sea.	36	155	4.3	17	2
Palmer, K.C.	24	155	6.5	35	0
Dudek, Den.	35	154	4.4	16	2
Parker, K.C.	47	150	3.2	10	1
Pinkett, Hou.	31	149	4.8	22	2
Evans, Raiders	11	144	13.1	24	1
Hunter, Hou.	34	144	4.2	21	0
Willite, Den.	26	141	5.4	29	0
C. Ellis, Raiders	33	138	4.2	14	2
Stone, Pitt.	17	135	7.9	51	0
Kelly, Buff.	29	133	4.6	24	0
Bligen, Jets	31	128	4.1	15	1
Poole, Den.	28	126	4.5	15	1
Manoa, Clev.	23	116	5.0	35	0
Davenport, Mia.	32	114	3.6	27	1
C. Smith, K.C.	26	114	4.4	11	0
Moon, Hou.	34	112	3.3	20	3
Strachan, Raiders	28	108	3.9	20	0
Moriarty, K.C.	30	107	3.6	11	0
Highsmith, Hou.	29	106	3.7	25	1
W. Bennett, Mia.	25	102	4.1	18	0
James, S.D.	27	102	3.8	115	2
Wallace, Hou.	19	102	5.4	19	0
Mackey, Mia.	17	98	5.8	17	2
Everett, Clev.	34	95	2.8	16	0
Horton, Raiders	31	95	3.1	14	0
McCluskey, Cin.	29	94	3.2	12	1
Wilson, Raiders	17	91	5.4	16	0
Jenkins, S.D.	22	88	4.0	9	0
G. Brown, Ind.	19	85	4.5	118	1
Sewell, Den.	19	83	4.4	17	2
B. Green, Sea.	21	77	3.7	17	0
Ramsey, N.E.	13	75	5.8	19	1
Middleton, S.D.	28	74	2.6	21	1
Wright, Cin.	24	74	3.1	10	0
Morris, Sea.	21	71	3.4	13	0
Wonsley, Ind.	18	71	3.9	12	1
D. Walter, Cin.	16	70	4.4	16	0
Sanders, Pitt.	11	65	5.9	14	1
O'Brien, Jets	30	61	2.0	11	0
Rice, Cin.	18	59	3.3	8	0
McLemore, Ind.	17	58	3.4	9	0
Bailey, Mia.	10	55	5.5	13	0
Caldwell, Den.	16	53	3.3	7	0
Fryar, N.E.	9	52	5.8	16	0
Morton, Sea.	19	52	2.7	10	1
Sartin, S.D.	19	52	2.7	10	1
Harrison, Raiders	9	49	5.4	13	0
Lacy, K.C.	14	49	3.5	17	0
Konecny, Mia.	6	46	7.7	19	0
Tagliaferri, Mia.	13	45	3.5	7	1
Hansen, N.E.	16	44	2.8	7	0
Bell, Den.	13	43	3.3	11	0
Davis, N.E.	9	43	4.8	27	0
Faola, Jets	14	43	3.1	18	2
Flutie, N.E.	6	43	7.2	13	0
Shepherd, Buff.	12	42	3.5	19	0
Christensen, Clev.	11	41	3.7	15	0
Isom, Mia.	9	41	4.6	8	1
Neuheisel, S.D.	6	41	6.8	18	1
Lane, Sea.	13	40	3.1	7	0
Grogan, N.E.	20	37	1.9	8	2
Burse, Sea.	7	36	5.1	16	0
Calhoun, Raiders	7	36	5.1	18	0
Redden, S.D.	11	36	3.3	7	0
Fonotot, Clev.	15	33	2.2	14	0
Largent, Sea.	2	33	16.5	21	0
Pease, Hou.	15	33	2.2	8	1
Seurer, K.C.	9	33	3.7	11	0
Parros, Sea.	13	32	2.5	7	1
Driver, Clev.	9	31	3.4	16	0
Kiel, Ind.	4	30	7.5	16	0
Tillman, Hou.	12	29	2.4	13	1
King, Buff.	9	28	3.1	8	0
Bono, Pitt.	8	27	3.4	23	1
Eason, N.E.	3	25	8.3	13	0
L. Williams, Buff.	9	25	2.8	9	0
Hawkins, Raiders	4	24	6.0	7	0
To. Spencer, S.D.	14	24	1.7	5	0
Cobble, Hou.	9	23	2.6	12	0
C. McSwain, N.E.	9	23	2.6	9	0
Chirico, Jets	12	22	1.8	4	1
Kosar, Clev.	15	22	1.5	7	1
R. Moore, Hou.	7	22	3.1	11	0
Blackledge, K.C.	5	21	4.2	11	0
Collier, Pitt.	4	20	5.0	12	0
Nathan, Mia.	4	20	5.0	8	0
Woods, N.E.	4	20	5.0	13	1
Meehan, Cin.	4	19	4.8	17	0
Breen, Cin.	6	18	3.0	9	0
Jensen, Mia.	4	18	4.5	9	0
Smith, Raiders	5	18	3.6	15	0

t—Touchdown
Leader based on most yards gained

Team Passing

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att.	Com.	Pct.	Gross	Tkd.-	Net	Avg.	Yds.	Yds.	TDs.	Lng.	Had
				Yards	Yds.	Yards	Yds.	Com.	TDs.	Lng.	Int.	
San Francisco	501	322	64.3	3955	29-205	3750	7.89	12.28	44	157	14	
Washington	478	247	51.7	3718	27-223	3495	7.78	15.05	27	188	18	
St. Louis	529	305	57.7	3850	54-397	3453	7.28	12.62	25	57	15	
N.Y. Giants	499	265	53.1	3645	61-443	3202	7.30	13.75	26	163	22	
Dallas	500	288	57.6	3594	52-403	3191	7.19	12.48	19	177	20	
Chicago	493	272	55.2	3420	48-330	3090	6.94	12.57	23	159	24	
Philadelphia	520	283	54.4	3561	72-511	3050	6.85	12.58	26	170	16	
Tampa Bay	517	264	51.1	3377	43-361	3016	6.53	12.79	22	164	17	
Detroit	509	275	54.0	3150	26-194	2956	6.19	11.45	16	153	26	
Minnesota	446	232	52.0	3185	52-359	2826	7.14	13.73	21	173	23	
New Orleans	411	227	55.2	2987	29-213	2774	7.27	13.16	23	182	12	
Atlanta	501	247	49.3	3108	46-340	2768	6.20	12.58	17	57	32	
Green Bay	455	234	51.4	2977	45-296	2681	6.54	12.72	15	170	17	
L.A. Rams	420	220	52.4	2750	25-196	2554	6.55	12.50	16	181	18	
Conf. Total	6779	3681	54.3	47277	609-4471	42806	6.97	12.84	320	188	274	
Conf. Average	484.2	262.9	54.3	3376.9	43.5-319.4	3057.6	6.97	12.84	22.9	19.6	19.6	
League Total	13491	7396	54.8	93882	1106-8236	85646	6.96	12.69	611	188	540	
League Avg.	481.8	264.1	54.8	3352.9	39.5-294.1	3058.8	6.96	12.69	21.8	19.3	19.3	

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att.	Com.	Pct.	Gross	Tkd.-	Net	Avg.	Yds.	Yds.	TDs.	Lng.	Had
				Yards	Yds.	Yards	Yds.	Com.	TDs.	Lng.	Int.	
Miami	584	338	57.9	3977	13-101	3876	6.81	11.77	29	159	20	
Denver	530	285	53.8	3874	30-220	3654	7.31	13.59	24	172	19	
Cleveland	482	291	60.4	3625	29-170	3455	7.52	12.46	27	154	12	
Houston	482	240	49.8	3534	30-234	3300	7.33	14.73	24	183	23	
San Diego	516	303	58.7	3602	39-322	3280	6.98	11.89	13	67	23	
Cincinnati	475	255	53.7	3468	32-255	3213	7.30	13.60	17	161	20	
L.A. Raiders	457	247	54.0	3429	53-359	3070	7.50	13.88	19	49	18	
N.Y. Jets	517	302	58.4	3402	66-443	2959	6.58	11.26	18	59	15	
Buffalo	516	292	56.6	3246	37-345	2901	6.29	11.12	21	47	19	
Indianapolis	447	255	57.0	3042	24-190	2852	6.81	11.93	16	172	16	
Seattle	405	237	58.5	3028	36-316	2712	7.48	12.78	31	175	21	
New England	440	236	53.6	2929	33-246	2683	6.66	12.41	22	45	18	
Kansas City	432	236	54.6	2985	48-366	2619	6.91	12.65	17	181	17	
Pittsburgh	429	198	46.2	2464	27-198	2266	5.74	12.44	13	63	25	
Conf. Total	6712	3715	55.3	46605	497-3765	42840	6.94	12.55	291	183	266	
Conf. Average	479.4	265.4	55.3	3328.9	35.5-268.9	3060.0	6.94	12.55	20.8	19.0	19.0	

Leader based on net yards

Individual Passing

NFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

Player—Team	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Pct.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	Rating
					Gain			Int.	Int.		Pts.
MONTANA, S.F.	398	266	66.8	3054	7.67	31	7.8	157	13	3.3	102.1
Simms, Giants	282	163	57.8	2230	7.91	17	6.0	150	9	3.2	90.0
Lomax, St. L.	463	275	59.4	3387	7.32	24	5.2	57	12	2.6	88.5
McMahon, Chi.	210	125	59.5	1639	7.80	12	5.7	159	8	3.8	87.4
DeBerg, T.B.	275	159	57.8	1891	6.88	14	5.1	164	7	2.5	85.3
Cunningham, Phil.	406	223	54.9	2786	6.86	23	5.7	170	12	3.0	83.0
Hebert, N.O.	294	164	55.8	2119	7.21	15	5.1	67	9	3.1	82.9
W. Wilson, Minn.	264	140	53.0	2106	7.98	14	5.3	173	13	4.9	76.7
D. White, Dall.	362	215	59.4	2617	7.23	12	3.3	43	17	4.7	73.2
Schroeder, Wash.	267	129	48.3	1878	7.03	12	4.5	184	10	3.7	71.0
Everett, Rams	302	162	53.6	2064	6.83	10	3.3	181	13	4.3	68.4
Campbell, Atl.	260	136	52.3	1728	6.65	11	4.2	144	14	5.4	65.0
Long, Det.	416	232	55.8	2598	6.25	11	2.6	53	20	4.8	63.4
Wright, G.B.	247	132	53.4	1507	6.10	6	2.4	66	11	4.5	61.6

AFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

Player—Team	Att.	Cmp.	Pct. Cmp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Pts.
KOSAR, Clev.....	389	241	62.0	3033	7.80	22	5.7	154	9	2.3	95.4
Marino, Mia.....	444	263	59.2	3245	7.31	26	5.9	159	13	2.9	89.2
Krieg, Sea.....	294	178	60.5	2131	7.25	23	7.8	175	15	5.1	87.6
Kennedy, K.C.....	273	154	56.4	2107	7.72	15	5.5	181	9	3.3	85.8
Wilson, Raiders.....	266	152	57.1	2070	7.78	12	4.5	147	8	3.0	84.6
Kelly, Buff.....	419	250	59.7	2798	6.68	19	4.5	47	11	2.6	83.8
Elway, Den.....	410	224	54.6	3198	7.80	19	4.6	172	12	2.9	83.4
O'Brien, Jets.....	393	234	59.5	2696	6.86	13	3.3	59	8	2.0	82.8
Trudeau, Ind.....	229	128	55.9	1587	6.93	6	2.6	55	6	2.6	75.4
Moon, Hou.....	368	184	50.0	2806	7.63	21	5.7	183	18	4.9	74.2
Esiason, Cin.....	440	240	54.5	3321	7.55	16	3.6	161	19	4.3	73.1
Fouts, S.D.....	364	206	56.6	2517	6.91	10	2.7	46	15	4.1	70.0
Malone, Pitt.....	336	156	46.4	1896	5.64	6	1.8	63	19	5.7	46.7

Individual Pass Receiving

NFC

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
J.T. SMITH, St.L.	91	1117	12.3	38	8
Craig, S.F.	66	492	7.5	135	1
Rice, S.F.	65	1078	16.6	157	22
H. Walker, Dall.	60	715	11.9	44	1
Mandley, Det.	58	720	12.4	41	7
Clark, Wash.	56	1066	19.0	184	7
Bavaro, Giants	55	867	15.8	38	8
Ellard, Rams	51	799	15.7	181	3
Anderson, Chi.	47	467	9.9	159	3
Quick, Phil.	46	790	17.2	161	11
Renfro, Dall.	46	662	14.4	43	4
Mitchell, St.L.	45	397	8.8	39	2
Martin, N.O.	44	778	17.7	67	7
Green, St.L.	43	731	17.0	57	4
Bryant, Wash.	43	490	11.4	39	5
Awalt, St.L.	42	526	12.5	35	6
Wilder, T.B.	40	328	8.2	32	1
Toney, Phil.	39	341	8.7	33	1
Carter, Minn.	38	922	24.3	173	7
Stanley, G.B.	38	672	17.7	170	3
G. Carter, T.B.	38	586	15.4	57	5
Monk, Wash.	38	483	12.7	62	6
Sanders, Wash.	37	630	17.0	57	3
Dixon, Atl.	36	600	16.7	151	5
Cosbie, Dall.	36	421	11.7	30	3
Neal, G.B.	36	420	11.7	38	3
Spagnola, Phil.	36	350	9.7	22	2
Gault, Chi.	35	705	20.1	156	7
Jordan, Minn.	35	490	14.0	38	2
Adams, Giants	35	298	8.5	25	1
Edwards, Dall.	34	521	15.3	138	3
Epps, G.B.	34	516	15.2	40	2
Magee, T.B.	34	424	12.5	37	3
Newsome, Dall.	34	274	8.1	30	2
Jones, Det.	34	262	7.7	35	0
W. Payton, Chi.	33	217	6.6	16	1
Matthews, Atl.	32	537	16.8	57	3
Manuel, Giants	30	545	18.2	150	6
Chadwick, Det.	30	416	13.9	36	0
Rathman, S.F.	30	329	11.0	29	3
Wilson, S.F.	29	450	15.5	146	5
M. Jones, N.O.	27	420	15.6	143	3
McKinnon, Chi.	27	406	15.0	33	1
Ro. Brown, Rams	26	521	20.0	52	2
Carrier, T.B.	26	423	16.3	38	3
Frank, S.F.	26	296	11.4	27	3
Galbreath, Giants	26	248	9.5	21	0
D. Nelson, Minn.	26	129	5.0	13	0
Riggs, Atl.	25	199	8.0	48	0
Tautalatasi, Phil.	25	176	7.0	22	0
Lewis, Minn.	24	383	16.0	36	2
Clark, S.F.	24	290	12.1	140	5
Moorehead, Chi.	24	269	11.2	27	1
Hill, T.B.	23	403	17.5	40	2
Hiillard, N.O.	23	264	11.5	138	1
Ferrell, St.L.	23	262	11.4	36	0
White, Rams	23	121	5.3	20	0
Guman, Rams	22	263	12.0	33	0
Francis, S.F.	22	202	9.2	19	0
Clark, G.B.	22	119	5.4	19	1
Jackson, Phil.	21	471	22.4	170	3
D. Johnson, Rams	21	198	9.4	20	2
Byars, Phil.	21	177	8.4	30	1
Ro. Morris, Chi.	20	379	19.0	142	1
Bailey, Atl.	20	325	16.3	35	3
Brenner, N.O.	20	280	14.0	29	2
Novacek, St.L.	20	254	12.7	25	3
J. Smith, T.B.	20	197	9.9	134	2
Hill, N.O.	19	322	16.9	36	2
Lee, Det.	19	308	16.2	53	0
West, G.B.	19	261	13.7	40	1
Rice, Minn.	19	201	10.6	24	1
Dorsett, Dall.	19	177	9.3	33	1
Woolfolk, Det.	19	166	8.7	13	0
Brim, Minn.	18	282	15.7	163	2
Baty, N.E.-Rams	18	175	9.7	22	2
Boso, Chi.	17	188	11.1	31	2
Gentry, Chi.	17	183	10.8	138	1
Whisenhunt, Atl.	17	145	8.5	26	1
Grant, Phil.	16	280	17.5	41	0
Le. Morris, G.B.	16	259	16.2	146	1
James, Det.	16	215	13.4	46	0
Tice, N.O.	16	181	11.3	127	6
Hall, T.B.	16	169	10.6	29	1
T. Johnson, St.L.	15	308	20.5	149	2
Baker, Giants	15	277	18.5	50	2
Banks, Dall.	15	231	15.4	34	1
Kozlowski, Chi.	15	199	13.3	28	3
Mayes, N.O.	15	68	4.5	16	0
Davis, G.B.	14	110	7.9	35	0
A. Allen, Wash.	13	337	25.9	188	3
Didier, Wash.	13	178	13.7	25	1
Giles, Det.-Phil.	13	157	12.1	140	1
Rubick, Det.	13	147	11.3	22	1

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Dawsey, N.O.	13	142	10.9	29	0
Wright, T.B.	13	98	7.5	115	1
Bernard, Det.	13	91	7.0	12	0
Garrity, Phil.	12	242	20.2	41	2
Truitt, Minn.	12	207	17.3	153	1
Paskett, G.B.	12	188	15.7	147	1
Taylor, Atl.	12	171	14.3	28	1
Barksdale, Dall.	12	165	13.8	22	1
Heller, S.F.	12	165	13.8	139	3
McEwen, Wash.	12	164	13.7	42	0
Dozier, Minn.	12	89	7.4	120	2
McConkey, Giants	11	186	16.9	31	0
Settle, Atl.	11	153	13.9	36	0
Holmes, St.L.	11	132	12.0	23	0
Rouson, Giants	11	129	11.7	126	1
Morris, Giants	11	114	10.4	25	0
Hill, Rams	11	105	9.5	24	0
A. Cox, Atl.	11	101	9.2	19	0
Turner, Giants	10	195	19.5	36	1
Bennett, Giants	10	184	18.4	146	1
Barney, Atl.	10	175	17.5	32	2
S. Holloway, T.B.	10	127	12.7	26	0
Lovelady, Giants	10	125	12.5	123	2
Howard, T.B.	10	123	12.3	45	0
Carrieth, G.B.	10	78	7.8	19	1
Taylor, S.F.	9	151	16.8	34	0
Grymes, Det.	9	140	15.6	136	2
Siano, Phil.	9	137	15.2	34	1
Pattinson, N.O.	9	132	14.7	36	0
Bell, Buff.-Rams	9	96	10.7	132	1
Cribbs, S.F.	9	70	7.8	16	0
M. Williams, Atl.	9	70	7.8	15	0
Freeman, T.B.	8	141	17.6	164	2
Mobley, Rams	8	107	13.4	140	1
Johnson, Atl.	8	84	10.5	19	0
Scott, G.B.	8	79	9.9	16	0
Carthon, Giants	8	71	8.9	25	0
Bailey, Phil.	8	69	8.6	19	0
Wolfley, St.L.	8	68	8.5	16	0
R. Brown, Phil.	8	53	6.6	14	0
Francis, Rams	8	38	4.8	7	2
H. Jones, Minn.	7	189	27.0	158	2
Burbage, Dall.	7	168	24.0	177	2
Byrd, Atl.	7	125	17.9	33	0
Nichols, Det.	7	87	12.4	23	0
Summers, G.B.	7	83	11.9	17	1
Edwards, Det.	7	82	11.7	21	0
Anderson, Minn.	7	69	9.9	22	0
Haddix, Phil.	7	58	8.3	23	0
Suhey, Chi.	7	54	7.7	12	0
Kamama, Atl.	7	51	7.3	15	1
Bradley, Det.	7	50	7.1	14	2
Flowers, Atl.	7	50	7.1	24	0
Warren, Wash.	7	43	6.1	9	0
McGee, Rams	7	40	5.7	12	0
E. Hunter, Jets-T.B.	7	28	4.0	18	2
Fenney, Minn.	7	27	3.9	18	0
Bowman, Phil.	6	127	21.2	162	1
Greer, S.F.	6	111	18.5	50	1
Moore, Rams	6	107	17.8	26	1
J. Smith, Giants	6	72	12.0	19	0
House, Rams	6	63	10.5	115	1
Tyrrrell, Rams	6	59	9.8	16	0
Robinson, Giants	6	58	9.7	14	2
Word, N.O.	6	54	9.0	17	0
Willhite, G.B.	6	37	6.2	12	0
Badanjek, Atl.	6	35	5.8	16	0
Scott, N.O.	6	35	5.8	11	0
Gray, N.O.	6	30	5.0	12	0
Waters, N.O.	5	140	28.0	182	1
Streeter, T.B.	5	117	23.4	161	2
T. Wilson, Wash.	5	112	22.4	164	1
C. Brown, Atl.	5	103	20.6	23	0
K. Martin, Dall.	5	103	20.6	33	0
Miller, T.B.	5	97	19.4	33	0
Carter, Phil.	5	84	16.8	25	2
Brewer, Chi.	5	56	11.2	19	1
Kab, Det.	5	54	10.8	28	0
Austin, T.B.	5	51	10.2	20	0
Heimuli, Chi.	5	51	10.2	17	1
Ellerson, Det.	5	48	9.6	23	1
Repko, Phil.	5	46	9.2	12	0
G. White, Dall.	5	46	9.2	14	0
Womack, Minn.	5	46	9.2	123	1
Ross, Phil.	5	41	8.2	17	0
V. Williams, Giants	5	36	7.2	12	0
Kindt, Chi.	5	34	6.8	11	1
Emery, Atl.	5	31	6.2	13	0
Chandler, Dall.	5	25	5.0	9	1

AFC

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
TOON, Jets	68	976	14.4	158	5
Largent, Sea.	58	912	15.7	55	8
Reed, Buff.	57	752	13.2	40	5

Player	Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Burkett, Buff.		56	765	13.7	47	4
Harmon, Buff.		56	477	8.5	42	2
Carson, K.C.		55	1044	19.0	181	7
Givins, Hou.		53	933	17.6	183	6
Winslow, S.D.		53	519	9.8	30	3
Byner, Clev.		52	552	10.6	37	2
Brooks, Ind.		51	722	14.2	152	3
Allen, Raiders		51	410	8.0	39	0
D. Hill, Hou.		49	989	20.2	152	6
Stradford, Mia.		48	457	9.5	34	1
Slaughter, Clev.		47	806	17.1	154	7
Christensen, Raiders		47	663	14.1	33	2
G. Anderson, S.D.		47	503	10.7	38	2
Clayton, Mia.		46	776	16.9	43	7
E. Brown, Cin.		44	608	13.8	147	3
Collins, N.E.		44	347	7.9	29	4
Paige, K.C.		43	707	16.4	51	4
Brennan, Clev.		43	607	14.1	153	6
Shuler, Jets		43	434	10.1	132	3
V. Johnson, Den.		42	684	16.3	159	7
Bouza, Ind.		42	569	13.5	144	4
Lofton, Raiders		41	880	21.5	49	5
James, S.D.		41	593	14.5	46	3
Stallworth, Pitt.		41	521	12.7	45	2
Morgan, N.E.		40	672	16.8	45	3
Chandler, S.D.		39	617	15.8	27	2
Jo. Williams, Sea.		38	420	11.1	175	3
Jennings, Cin.		35	277	7.9	24	2
Bentley, Ind.		34	447	13.1	172	2
Newsome, Clev.		34	375	11.0	25	0
Duper, Mia.		33	597	18.1	159	8
R. Butler, Sea.		33	465	14.1	140	5
Hector, Jets		32	249	7.8	27	0
Mack, Clev.		32	223	7.0	17	1
Nattiel, Den.		31	630	20.3	54	2
Collinsworth, Cin.		31	494	15.9	53	0
Fryar, N.E.		31	467	15.1	40	5
Kay, Den.		31	440	14.2	30	0
Holman, Cin.		28	438	15.6	161	2
Hardy, Mia.		28	292	10.4	31	2
Metzelaars, Buff.		28	290	10.4	34	0
Beach, Ind.		28	239	8.5	16	0
Davenport, Mia.		27	249	9.2	29	1
Rozier, Hou.		27	192	7.1	27	1
M. Jackson, Den.		26	436	16.8	52	2
Pruitt, Mia.		26	404	15.5	37	3
Jensen, Mia.		26	221	8.5	20	1
Ce. Jones, N.E.		25	388	15.5	29	3
Micho, Den.		25	242	9.7	126	2
McNeil, Jets		24	262	10.9	57	1
Abercrombie, Pitt.		24	209	8.7	24	0
Okoye, K.C.		24	169	7.0	22	0
McGee, Cin.		23	408	17.7	49	1
Sohn, Jets		23	261	11.3	31	2
Hampton, Mia.		23	223	9.7	24	0
Brooks, Cin.		22	272	12.4	46	2
Do. Williams, Raiders		21	330	15.7	33	5
Hayes, K.C.		21	272	13.0	33	2
Martin, Cin.		20	394	19.7	154	3
Murray, Ind.		20	339	17.0	43	3
Langhorne, Clev.		20	288	14.4	25	1
Holohan, S.D.		20	239	12.0	18	0
Skansi, Sea.		19	207	10.9	25	1
Harper, Jets		18	225	12.5	135	1
Kattus, Cin.		18	217	12.1	57	2
Dickerson, Rams-Ind.		18	171	9.5	28	0
Thompson, Pitt.		17	313	18.4	63	1
Starring, N.E.		17	289	17.0	134	3
Warner, Sea.		17	167	9.8	130	2
Lang, Den.		17	130	7.6	29	2
Ti. Spencer, S.D.		17	123	7.2	18	0
Mobley, Den.		16	228	14.3	28	1
Sweeney, Pitt.		16	217	13.6	34	0
Carter, Pitt.		16	180	11.3	126	3
B. Jackson, Raiders		16	136	8.5	23	2
T. Johnson, Buff.		15	186	12.4	126	2
Holman, Jets		15	155	10.3	30	0
Tatupu, N.E.		15	136	9.1	23	0
Riddick, Buff.		15	96	6.4	117	3
Fernandez, Raiders		14	236	16.9	47	0
Teal, Sea.		14	198	14.1	47	2
Turner, Sea.		14	153	10.9	120	6
Klever, Jets		14	152	10.9	30	0
Heard, K.C.		14	118	8.4	15	0
Tice, Sea.		14	106	7.6	27	2
Pollard, Pitt.		14	77	5.5	17	0
Winder, Den.		14	74	5.3	13	1
Massie, Den.		13	244	18.8	139	4
Clinkscales, Pitt.		13	240	18.5	57	1
Duncan, Hou.		13	237	18.2	48	5
Sewell, Den.		13	209	16.1	172	1
J. Williams, Hou.		13	158	12.2	25	3
Vick, Jets		13	108	8.3	23	0
A. Williams, S.D.		12	247	20.6	57	1
Kemp, Clev.		12	224	18.7	34	2
Lee, Pitt.		12	124	10.3	24	0
Tagliaferri, Mia.		12	117	9.8	27	0

RECEIVING—Continued

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Dawson, N.E.	12	81	6.8	14	0
Watson, Den.	11	167	15.2	49	1
O. Williams, Hou.	11	165	15.0	136	1
Lipps, Pitt.	11	164	14.9	27	0
Linne, N.E.	11	158	14.4	30	2
Weathers, Clev.	11	153	13.9	137	2
Drewrey, Hou.	11	148	13.5	35	0
Mueller, Raiders	11	95	8.6	14	0
Bligen, Jets	11	81	7.4	19	0
Harris, Hou.	10	164	16.4	39	0
Marshall, K.C.	10	126	12.6	19	0
Noble, Ind.	10	78	7.8	118	2
Nathan, Mia.	10	77	7.7	14	0
Bernstine, S.D.	10	76	7.6	15	1
Boyer, Ind.	10	73	7.3	15	0
Jackson, Hou.	10	44	4.4	16	0
Moriarty, K.C.	10	37	3.7	8	1
Walker, Jets	9	190	21.1	59	1
M. Brown, Buff.	9	120	13.3	30	1
Gaines, Buff.	9	115	12.8	37	0
Kinnbrew, Cin.	9	114	12.7	25	0
Tennell, Clev.	9	102	11.3	24	3
Douglas, Mia.	9	92	10.2	17	1
Sherwin, Ind.	9	86	9.6	32	1
Boddie, Den.	9	85	9.4	26	0
McKeller, Buff.	9	80	8.9	22	0
R. Porter, Buff.	9	70	7.8	26	0
C. Banks, Ind.	9	50	5.6	18	0
Willhite, Den.	9	25	2.8	6	0
Pardridge, Sea.	8	145	18.1	47	1
Aikens, Raiders	8	134	16.8	132	3
McNeil, Clev.	8	120	15.0	139	2
Keel, Sea.-K.C.	8	97	12.1	124	1
R. Jones, K.C.	8	76	9.5	16	1
Sampton, Mia.	8	64	8.0	19	0
Middleton, S.D.	8	43	5.4	17	0
Everett, Clev.	8	41	5.1	10	0
Jenkins, S.D.	8	40	5.0	7	0
Lockett, Pitt.	7	116	16.6	25	1
Chavis, Mia.	7	108	15.4	27	0
Hoge, Pitt.	7	97	13.9	27	1
Juma, Sea.	7	95	13.6	26	0
Jeffries, Hou.	7	89	12.7	23	0
Holt, S.D.	7	56	8.0	17	0
Jackson, Pitt.	7	52	7.4	23	0
Redden, S.D.	7	46	6.6	13	0
Parker, K.C.	7	44	6.3	14	0
Dudek, Den.	7	41	5.9	19	0
Wallace, Hou.	7	34	4.9	7	0
Holland, S.D.	6	138	23.0	45	0
Swanson, Den.	6	87	14.5	135	1
Lewis, Mia.	6	53	8.8	22	1
S. Hunter, Jets	6	50	8.3	12	1
Rome, S.D.	6	49	8.2	13	0
Konecny, Mia.	6	26	4.3	10	0
Sartin, S.D.	6	19	3.2	8	0
Walters, Hou.	5	99	19.8	51	0
Lathan, Raiders	5	98	19.6	33	0
Broughton, Buff.	5	90	18.0	39	1
Moffett, S.D.	5	80	16.0	25	1
Reilly, Mia.	5	70	14.0	20	0
Bellini, Ind.	5	69	13.8	19	0
Brown, K.C.	5	69	13.8	23	0
Hillary, Cin.	5	65	13.0	23	0
Gehring, Hou.	5	64	12.8	13	1
Wonsley, Ind.	5	48	9.6	16	0
Montagne, K.C.	5	47	9.4	16	0
Coffman, K.C.	5	42	8.4	13	1
C. Ellis, Raiders	5	39	7.8	15	0
Brandes, Ind.	5	35	7.0	13	0
Scott, N.E.	5	35	7.0	15	1
Mason, Clev.	5	26	5.2	15	1
Da. Williams, Raiders	4	104	26.0	44	0
McDonald, Hou.	4	56	14.0	24	1
Highsmith, Hou.	4	55	13.8	133	1
Andrews, Den.	4	53	13.3	20	0
E. Riley, Jets	4	42	10.5	16	0
Strachan, Raiders	4	42	10.5	14	0
McFadden, Buff.	4	41	10.3	13	1
Brown, Den.	4	40	10.0	18	0
Fontenot, Clev.	4	40	10.0	25	0
Trahan, K.C.	4	40	10.0	14	0
Adams, S.D.	4	38	9.5	21	0
Townsell, Jets	4	37	9.3	11	0
Da. Johnson, Mia.	4	35	8.8	22	2
Caldwell, Den.	4	34	8.5	14	0
Lane, Sea.	4	30	7.5	12	0
Wright, Cin.	4	28	7.0	11	0
Palmer, K.C.	4	27	6.8	10	0
W. Bennett, Mia.	4	18	4.5	6	0
Chirico, Jets	4	18	4.5	8	0
Alston, Pitt.	3	84	28.0	142	2
Coffey, N.E.	3	66	22.0	35	0
R. Wheeler, Raiders	3	61	20.3	29	0
Kearse, Ind.	3	56	18.7	21	0
Gadbois, N.E.	3	51	17.0	20	0

t—Touchdown
Leader based on most passes caught.

Team Scoring

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Tot. Tds.	Tds. R.	Tds. P.	Tds. Misc.	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Saf.	Tot. Pts.
San Francisco	59	11	44	4	55	59	16	23	1	459
New Orleans	46	20	23	3	43	46	33	42	2	422
Washington	47	18	27	2	43	47	18	29	0	379
St. Louis	46	15	25	6	44	46	14	27	0	362
Chicago	42	13	23	6	38	42	22	32	0	356
Dallas	38	17	19	2	37	37	25	29	0	340
Philadelphia	40	12	26	2	38	40	19	31	1	337
Minnesota	42	20	21	1	40	41	14	29	1	336
L.A. Rams	38	15	16	7	36	38	17	21	1	317
Tampa Bay	33	7	22	4	31	33	19	24	0	286
N.Y. Giants	32	4	26	2	28	32	20	32	0	280
Detroit	27	9	16	2	27	27	26	39	1	269
Green Bay	28	13	15	0	24	27	21	29	0	255
Atlanta	24	5	17	2	23	24	12	17	1	205
Conf. Total	542	179	320	43	507	539	276	404	8	4603
Conference Avg.	38.7	12.8	22.9	3.1	36.2	38.5	19.7	28.9	0.6	328.8

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Tot. Tds.	Tds. R.	Tds. P.	Tds. Misc.	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Saf.	Tot. Pts.
Cleveland	47	16	27	4	45	47	21	31	0	390
Denver	45	18	24	3	44	45	21	29	1	379
Seattle	46	13	31	2	44	46	17	22	0	371
Miami	47	16	29	2	44	47	12	16	0	362
Houston	38	12	24	2	37	38	26	32	1	345
N.Y. Jets	39	17	18	4	38	38	20	26	1	334
New England	39	12	22	5	38	39	16	28	0	320
L.A. Raiders	35	13	19	3	34	35	19	30	0	301
Indianapolis	31	14	16	1	31	31	27	32	1	300
Cincinnati	30	13	17	0	28	30	25	32	1	285
Pittsburgh	31	11	13	7	31	31	22	29	1	285
Kansas City	30	7	17	6	30	30	21	25	0	273
Buffalo	33	9	21	3	32	33	12	20	2	270
San Diego	29	11	13	5	27	29	16	28	2	253
Conf. Total	520	182	291	47	503	519	275	380	10	4468
Conference Avg.	37.1	13.0	20.8	3.4	35.9	37.1	19.6	27.1	0.7	319.1
League Total	1062	361	611	90	1010	1058	551	784	18	9071
League Average	37.9	12.9	21.8	3.2	36.1	37.8	19.7	28.0	0.6	324.0

Individual Scoring

NFC

	Total Tds.	Rush Tds.	Pass Tds.	Misc. Tds.	Tot. Pts.
KICKERS					
	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
Andersen, N.O.	37	37	28	36	121
Ruzek, Dall.	26	26	22	25	92
Lansford, Rams	36	38	17	21	87
Butler, Chi.	28	30	19	28	85
McFadden, Phil.	36	36	16	26	84
Wersching, S.F.	44	46	13	17	83
Murray, Det.	21	21	20	32	81
Allegre, Giants	25	26	17	27	76
C. Nelson, Minn.	36	37	13	24	75
Haji-Sheikh, Wash.	29	32	13	19	68
Igwebuike, T.B.	24	26	14	18	66
Zendejas, G.B.	13	15	16	19	61
Gallery, St.L.	30	31	9	19	57
Del Greco, G.B.-St.L.	19	20	9	15	46
Luckhurst, Atl.	17	17	9	13	44
Prindle, Det.	6	6	6	7	24
Brockhaus, S.F.	11	13	3	6	20
Lashar, Chi.	10	10	3	4	19
Zendejas, Dall.	10	10	3	4	19
Ariri, Wash.	6	6	3	5	15
Davis, Atl.	6	6	3	4	15
Kempf, N.O.	1	1	4	5	13
Benyola, Giants	3	3	3	5	12
Jacobs, Phil.	2	4	3	5	11
Stavrovsky, St.L.	6	6	1	3	9
Cofer, N.O.	5	7	1	1	8
Dawson, Minn.	4	4	1	5	7
Cox, Wash.	3	3	1	2	6
Atkinson, Wash.	1	1	1	1	4
Toibin, Wash.	4	4	0	2	4
Brady, Dall.	1	1	0	0	1
NON-KICKERS					
	Total Tds.	Rush Tds.	Pass Tds.	Misc. Tds.	Tot. Pts.
Rice, S.F.	23	1	22	0	138
Quick, Phil.	11	0	11	0	66
White, Rams	11	11	0	0	66
Bavaro, Giants	8	0	8	0	48
Hilliard, N.O.	8	7	1	0	48
J.T. Smith, St.L.	8	0	8	0	48
H. Walker, Dall.	8	7	1	0	48
Carter, Minn.	7	0	7	0	42
Clark, Wash.	7	0	7	0	42
Dozier, Minn.	7	5	2	0	42
Ferrell, St.L.	7	7	0	0	42
Gault, Chi.	7	0	7	0	42
Mandley, Det.	7	0	7	0	42
Martin, N.O.	7	0	7	0	42
Anderson, Chi.	6	3	3	0	36
Awalt, St.L.	6	0	6	0	36
Bryant, Wash.	6	1	5	0	36
Manuel, Giants	6	0	6	0	36
Monk, Wash.	6	0	6	0	36
Rogers, Wash.	6	6	0	0	36
Tice, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Toney, Phil.	6	5	1	0	36
G. Carter, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Clark, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
Dixon, Atl.	5	0	5	0	30
Fullwood, G.B.	5	5	0	0	30
Mayes, N.O.	5	5	0	0	30
Mitchell, St.L.	5	3	2	0	30
W. Payton, Chi.	5	4	1	0	30
Wilson, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
W. Wilson, Minn.	5	5	0	0	30
Byars, Phil.	4	3	1	0	24
Carruth, G.B.	4	3	1	0	24
Craig, S.F.	4	3	1	0	24
Edwards, Dall.	4	1	3	0	24
Ellerson, Det.	4	3	1	0	24
Green, St.L.	4	0	4	0	24
James, Det.	4	4	0	0	24
McAdoo, St.L.	4	3	0	1	24
Newsome, Dall.	4	2	2	0	24
Rathman, S.F.	4	1	3	0	24
Renfro, Dall.	4	0	4	0	24
J. Smith, T.B.	4	2	2	0	24

SCORING—Continued

	Total TDs.	Rush TDs.	Pass TDs.	Misc. TDs.	Tot. Pts.		Total TDs.	Rush TDs.	Pass TDs.	Misc. TDs.	Tot. Pts.
A. Allen, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18	Garrity, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Bailey, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18	Gentry, Chi.	2	0	1	1	12
Blount, Dall.	3	3	0	0	18	Grimes, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Brewer, Chi.	3	2	1	0	18	Hill, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Brim, Minn.	3	1	2	0	18	Hill, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Ro. Brown, Rams	3	0	2	1	18	Hilton, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Carrier, T.B.	3	0	3	0	18	D. Johnson, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Cosbie, Dall.	3	0	3	0	18	T. Johnson, St. L.	2	0	2	0	12
Cunningham, Phil.	3	3	0	0	18	H. Jones, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Davis, G.B.	3	3	0	0	18	Jordan, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12
Ellard, Rams	3	0	3	0	18	Jordan, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Frank, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18	Kramer, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Heller, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18	Lovelady, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Jackson, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18	J. McDonald, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
M. Jones, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18	McMahon, Chi.	2	2	0	0	12
Kozlowski, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18	D. Nelson, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Lewis, Minn.	3	0	2	1	18	Rice, Minn.	2	1	1	0	12
Magee, T.B.	3	0	3	0	18	Riggs, Atl.	2	2	0	0	12
Matthews, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18	Robinson, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
McKinnon, Chi.	3	0	1	2	18	Spagnola, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Morris, Giants	3	3	0	0	18	Streeter, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Neal, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18	Vital, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Novacek, St. L.	3	0	3	0	18	T. Wilson, Wash.	2	1	1	0	12
Sanders, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18	W. Wilson, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Schroeder, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18	Word, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12
Stanley, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18	Adams, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Adams, Giants	2	1	1	0	12	Alexander, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
Anderson, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12	Austin, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Baker, Giants	2	0	2	0	12	Badanjek, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Barney, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12	Banks, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Bernard, Det.	2	2	0	0	12	Barksdale, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Beverly, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12	Bartalo, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Boso, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12	Bell, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Bradley, Det.	2	0	2	0	12	Bennett, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Brenner, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12	Bland, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Burbage, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12	Bowman, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Campbell, Atl.	2	2	0	0	12	Branch, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Carter, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12	Chandler, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Cribbs, S.F.	2	1	0	1	12	Cherry, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Dorsett, Dall.	2	1	1	0	12	Clark, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Epps, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12	Clemons, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Fenney, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12	Didier, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Francis, Rams	2	0	2	0	12	Everett, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
Freeman, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12	Flynn, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
						Francis, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
						Garza, St. L.	1	1	0	0	6
						Gayle, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
						Giles, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
						Gray, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
						Gray, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
						Green, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
						Greene, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
						Greer, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
						Griffin, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
						Guman, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
						Hall, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
						Hargrove, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
						Heimuli, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
						House, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
						Howard, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
						Irvin, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
						Jackson, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
						Jackson, St. L.	1	0	0	1	6
						Jeffcoat, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
						Jessie, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
						J. Johnson, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
						Joyner, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
						Kamana, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
						Kinard, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
						Kindt, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
						King, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
						McCray, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
						McGee, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
						McGowan, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
						McIntosh, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
						McLemore, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
						Mobley, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
						Monroe, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
						Montana, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
						Moore, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
						Moore, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
						Moorehead, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
						Le. Morris, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
						Ro. Morris, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
						Mosley, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
						Moss, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
						Mowatt, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
						N. Noga, St. L.	1	0	0	1	6
						P. Noga, St. L.	1	0	0	1	6
						O'Neal, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
						Paskett, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
						Pelluer, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
						Poe, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
						Ricks, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
						Risher, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
						Rodgers, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6

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SCORING—Continued

AFC

KICKERS

	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
BREECH, Cin.	25	27	24	30	97
Biasucci, Ind.	24	24	24	27	96
Zendejas, Hou.	32	33	20	26	92
Karlis, Den.	37	37	18	25	91
G. Anderson, Pitt.	21	21	22	27	87
N. Johnson, Sea.	40	40	15	20	85
Leahy, Jets	31	31	18	22	85
Bahr, Raiders	27	28	19	29	84
Lowery, K.C.	26	26	19	23	83
T. Franklin, N.E.	37	38	15	26	82
Jaeger, Clev.	33	33	14	22	75
Abbott, S.D.	22	23	13	22	61
Norwood, Buff.	31	31	10	15	61
Reveiz, Mia.	28	30	9	11	55
Tiffin, T.B.-Mia.	11	11	5	7	26
Dietrich, Hou.	5	5	6	6	23
Bahr, Clev.	9	10	4	5	21
Beecher, Mia.	12	12	3	4	21
Clendenen, Den.	7	7	3	4	16
Jordan, Ind.	7	7	3	5	16
Gaffney, S.D.	4	5	3	6	13
Ragusa, Jets	7	7	2	4	13
Franco, Clev.	2	2	3	4	11
Hagler, Sea.	4	4	2	2	10
Hamrick, K.C.	4	4	2	2	10
Trout, Pitt.	10	10	0	2	10
Hardy, Raiders	7	7	0	1	7
Schlopy, Buff.	1	2	2	5	7
Manca, Cin.	3	3	1	2	6
Schubert, N.E.	1	1	1	2	4
Kelley, Clev.	1	1	0	0	1

NON-KICKERS

	Total TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	Misc. TDs	Tot. Pts.
HECTOR, Jets	11	11	0	0	66
Byner, Clev.	10	8	2	0	60
Warner, Sea.	10	8	2	0	60
Bentley, Ind.	9	7	2	0	54
Riddick, Buff.	8	5	3	0	+50
Duper, Mia.	8	0	8	0	48
Kinnebrew, Cin.	8	8	0	0	48
Largent, Sea.	8	0	8	0	48
Carson, K.C.	7	0	7	0	42
Clayton, Mia.	7	0	7	0	42
V. Johnson, Den.	7	0	7	0	42
Slaughter, Clev.	7	0	7	0	42
Stradford, Mia.	7	6	1	0	42
Winder, Den.	7	6	1	0	42
Brennan, Clev.	6	0	6	0	36
Collins, N.E.	6	3	3	0	36
Dickerson, Rams-Ind.	6	6	0	0	36
Givins, Hou.	6	0	6	0	36
D. Hill, Hou.	6	0	6	0	36
B. Jackson, Raiders	6	4	2	0	36
James, S.D.	6	2	3	1	36
Mack, Clev.	6	5	1	0	36
Turner, Sea.	6	0	6	0	36
Allen, Raiders	5	5	0	0	30
G. Anderson, S.D.	5	3	2	0	30
R. Butler, Sea.	5	0	5	0	30
Duncan, Hou.	5	0	5	0	30
Fryar, N.E.	5	0	5	0	30
Lofton, Raiders	5	0	5	0	30

	Total TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	Misc. TDs	Tot. Pts.
Reed, Buff.	5	0	5	0	30
Toon, Jets	5	0	5	0	30
Do. Williams, Raiders	5	0	5	0	30
Bouza, Ind.	4	0	4	0	24
Burkett, Buff.	4	0	4	0	24
Elway, Den.	4	4	0	0	24
Harmon, Buff.	4	2	2	0	24
Lang, Den.	4	2	2	0	24
Massie, Den.	4	0	4	0	24
Paige, K.C.	4	0	4	0	24
Jo. Williams, Sea.	4	1	3	0	24
Aikens, Raiders	3	0	3	0	18
Brooks, Ind.	3	0	3	0	18
Brooks, Cin.	3	1	2	0	18
E. Brown, Cin.	3	0	3	0	18
Carter, Pitt.	3	0	3	0	18
Dupard, N.E.	3	3	0	0	18
Heard, K.C.	3	3	0	0	18
Jennings, Cin.	3	1	2	0	18
Ce. Jones, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Malone, Pitt.	3	3	0	0	18
Martin, Cin.	3	0	3	0	18
Mason, Clev.	3	2	1	0	18
Moon, Hou.	3	3	0	0	18
Morgan, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Murray, Ind.	3	0	3	0	18
Okoye, K.C.	3	3	0	0	18
Pollard, Pitt.	3	3	0	0	18
Pruitt, Mia.	3	0	3	0	18
Rozier, Hou.	3	3	0	0	18
R. Scott, Mia.	3	3	0	0	18
Sewell, Den.	3	2	1	0	18
Shuler, Jets	3	0	3	0	18
Starring, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Tennell, Clev.	3	0	3	0	18
J. Williams, Hou.	3	0	3	0	18
Winslow, S.D.	3	0	3	0	18
Abercrombie, Pitt.	2	2	0	0	12
Alston, Pitt.	2	0	2	0	12
Baty, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Chandler, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12
Christensen, Raiders	2	0	2	0	12
Davenport, Mia.	2	1	1	0	12
Dudek, Den.	2	2	0	0	12
C. Ellis, Raiders	2	2	0	0	12
Faola, Jets	2	2	0	0	12
Fouts, S.D.	2	2	0	0	12
Grogan, N.E.	2	2	0	0	12
Hall, Pitt.	2	0	0	2	12
Hardy, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
Harper, Jets	2	0	1	1	12
Hayes, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Highsmith, Hou.	2	1	1	0	12
Holman, Cin.	2	0	2	0	12
E. Hunter, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
M. Jackson, Den.	2	0	2	0	12
Da. Johnson, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
T. Johnson, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Kattus, Cin.	2	0	2	0	12
Kemp, Clev.	2	0	2	0	12
Krieg, Sea.	2	2	0	0	12
Linne, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Lippett, N.E.	2	0	0	2	12
Mackey, Mia.	2	2	0	0	12
McNeil, Clev.	2	0	2	0	12
Micho, Den.	2	0	2	0	12
Mueller, Buff.	2	2	0	0	12
Nattiel, Den.	2	0	2	0	12
Noble, Ind.	2	0	2	0	12
Palmer, K.C.	2	0	0	2	12
Pinkett, Hou.	2	2	0	0	12
Rolle, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Scott, N.E.	2	0	1	1	12

	Total TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	Misc. TDs	Tot. Pts.
Shell, Pitt.	2	0	0	2	12
Sohn, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
Stallworth, Pitt.	2	0	2	0	12
Teal, Sea.	2	0	2	0	12
Tice, Sea.	2	0	2	0	12
Weathers, Clev.	2	0	2	0	12
Neuheisel, S.D.	1	1	0	0	17
Adams, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Adickes, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Banks, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Bernstine, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Bleier, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Bligen, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Boddie, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Bono, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Brandon, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Broughton, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
G. Brown, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
M. Brown, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Calhoun, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Chirico, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Clark, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Clayborn, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Clinkscales, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Coffman, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Douglas, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Ellis, Clev.	1	0	0	1	6
Evans, Raiders	1	1	0	0	6
Fields, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Gehring, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Glenn, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Gothard, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Gowdy, Pitt.	1	0	0	1	6
Grayson, Clev.	1	0	0	1	6
Griggs, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Hairston, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Hampton, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
Harris, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Haynes, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Hobley, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Hoge, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Hooper, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Horton, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
Humphery, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Hunley, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
S. Hunter, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Isom, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
Jackson, Hou.	1	1	0	0	6
Jackson, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Jensen, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
B. Johnson, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
J. Jones, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
R. Jones, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Keel, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Kelso, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Kosar, Clev.	1	1	0	0	6
Kurisko, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Langhorne, Clev.	1	0	1	0	6
LeBlanc, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Lewis, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Lockett, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Logan, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Lyles, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Maas, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Marino, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
Matthews, Clev.	1	0	0	1	6
McCluskey, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
McDonald, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
McElroy, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
McFadden, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
McGee, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
McNanie, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
McNeil, Jets	1	0	1	0	6

Team Interceptions

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
New Orleans	30	280	9.3	35	0
Minnesota	26	303	11.7	36	0
San Francisco	25	205	8.2	34	0
Washington	23	329	14.3	1100	1
Dallas	23	208	9.0	30	2
Philadelphia	21	197	9.4	63	0
N.Y. Giants	20	263	13.2	170	1
Detroit	19	290	15.3	48	1
Green Bay	18	220	12.2	73	0
L.A. Rams	16	305	19.1	49	2
Tampa Bay	16	248	15.5	42	2
Atlanta	15	182	12.1	40	0
St. Louis	14	167	11.9	160	1
Chicago	13	69	5.3	123	2
Conference Total	279	3266		1100	12
Conference Average	19.9	233.3	11.7		0.9
League Total	540	6716		1103	29

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Denver	28	403	14.4	152	2
Pittsburgh	27	336	12.4	150	5
Cleveland	23	366	15.9	76	2
Houston	23	274	11.9	173	1
New England	21	307	14.6	51	2
Indianapolis	20	212	10.6	68	0
N.Y. Jets	18	239	13.3	45	0
Seattle	17	289	17.0	53	1
Buffalo	17	93	5.5	23	0
Miami	16	135	8.4	44	0
Cincinnati	14	187	13.4	44	0
San Diego	13	291	22.4	103	2
L.A. Raiders	13	178	13.7	58	2
Kansas City	11	140	12.7	40	0
Conference Total	261	3450		1103	17
Conference Average	18.6	246.4	13.2		1.2
League Average	19.3	239.9	12.4		1.0

Individual Interceptions

NFC

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
WILBURN, Wash.	9	135	15.0	100	1
Griffin, Det.	6	130	21.7	29	0
Browner, Minn.	6	67	11.2	23	0
Kinard, Giants	5	163	32.6	170	1
Waymer, N.O.	5	78	15.6	35	0
R. Sutton, N.O.	5	68	13.6	26	0
Curtis, St. L.	5	65	13.0	31	0
Lott, S.F.	5	62	12.4	34	0
Walls, Dall.	5	38	7.6	30	0
Griffin, S.F.	5	1	0.2	1	0
Downs, Dall.	4	56	14.0	27	0
B. Butler, Atl.	4	48	12.0	31	0
Henderson, Minn.	4	33	8.3	17	0
Mack, N.O.	4	32	8.0	26	0
Bowles, Wash.	4	24	6.0	24	0
Foules, Phil.	4	6	1.5	6	0
J.B. Morris, G.B.	3	135	45.0	73	0
Green, Wash.	3	65	21.7	56	0
Waters, Phil.	3	63	21.0	63	0
Lee, Minn.	3	53	17.7	36	0
Galloway, Det.	3	46	15.3	30	0
Jakes, N.O.	3	32	10.7	27	0
Bates, Dall.	3	28	9.3	28	0
Walton, Wash.	3	28	9.3	24	0
J. Harris, Minn.	3	20	6.7	14	0
McNorton, Det.	3	20	6.7	20	0
Maxie, N.O.	3	17	5.7	10	0
Tripoli, T.B.	3	17	5.7	15	1
D. Brown, G.B.	3	16	5.3	11	0
L. Taylor, Giants	3	16	5.3	15	0
Atkins, N.O.	3	12	4.0	8	0
Haynes, Dall.	3	7	2.3	7	0
Duerson, Chi.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Isom, T.B.	2	67	33.5	38	0
Woods, T.B.	2	63	31.5	42	0
Coleman, Wash.	2	53	26.5	28	0
J. Williams, Det.	2	51	25.5	48	0
Irvin, Rams	2	47	23.5	147	1
Futrell, T.B.	2	46	23.0	23	0
Joynor, Phil.	2	42	21.0	29	0
Croudip, Atl.	2	40	20.0	40	0

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Gray, Rams	2	35	17.5	35	0
McLemore, S.F.	2	35	17.5	25	0
K. Walker, T.B.	2	30	15.0	130	1
Collins, Giants	2	28	14.0	28	0
Cromwell, Rams	2	28	14.0	28	0
Gordon, Atl.	2	28	14.0	27	0
Studwell, Minn.	2	26	13.0	14	0
Headen, Giants	2	25	12.5	20	0
Kullman, Phil.	2	25	12.5	13	0
Moore, Atl.	2	23	11.5	18	0
J. Anderson, G.B.	2	22	11.0	13	0
Rivera, Chi.	2	19	9.5	15	0
Francis, Dall.	2	18	9.0	118	1
Huff, Atl.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Jones, T.B.	2	9	4.5	9	0
J. Brown, Phil.	2	7	3.5	6	0
Holt, Minn.	2	7	3.5	7	0
Welch, Giants	2	7	3.5	7	0
Holland, G.B.	2	4	2.0	4	0

AFC

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
PRIOR, Ind.	6	57	9.5	38	0
KELSO, Buff.	6	25	4.2	12	0
BOSTIC, Hou.	6	—	—	—	0
Woodruff, Pitt.	5	91	18.2	133	1
Smith, S.D.	5	28	5.6	12	0
Glenn, S.D.	4	166	41.5	103	1
Wright, Clev.	4	152	38.0	68	1
Harden, Den.	4	85	21.3	32	0
Bryant, Hou.	4	75	18.8	29	0
Marion, N.E.	4	53	13.3	25	0
Easley, Sea.	4	47	11.8	22	0
McElroy, Raiders	4	41	10.3	135	1
Minnifield, Clev.	4	24	6.0	27	0
Donaldson, Hou.	4	16	4.0	9	0
Clark, Den.	3	105	35.0	50	0
Lippett, N.E.	3	103	34.3	145	2
Robinson, Sea.	3	75	25.0	44	0
Matthews, Clev.	3	62	20.7	36	1
Cherry, K.C.	3	58	19.3	30	0
Jackson, Cin.	3	49	16.3	29	0

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
Toran, Raiders	3	48	16.0	148	1
Jenkins, Sea.	3	46	15.3	34	0
Lankford, Mia.	3	44	14.7	44	0
Ross, K.C.	3	40	13.3	40	0
Haynes, Den.	3	39	13.0	25	1
Fulcher, Cin.	3	30	10.0	28	0
Hall, Pitt.	3	29	9.7	125	1
Howard, Jets	3	29	9.7	29	0
Lilly, Den.	3	29	9.7	24	0
Hamilton, Jets	3	25	8.3	25	0
Miano, Jets	3	24	8.0	21	0
Mecklenburg, Den.	3	23	7.7	16	0
Everett, Pitt.	3	22	7.3	21	0
Pitts, Buff.	3	19	6.3	12	0
Blackwood, Mia.	3	17	5.7	17	0
Hinkle, Pitt.	3	15	5.0	8	0
Robbins, Den.	3	9	3.0	9	0
Ryan, Den.	3	7	2.3	5	0
Dixon, Clev.	3	5	1.7	6	0
Tullis, Ind.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Robinson, Ind.	2	86	43.0	68	0
Hunley, Den.	2	64	32.0	152	1
Glaze, Sea.	2	53	26.5	53	0
Gowdy, Pitt.	2	50	25.0	145	1
Breeden, Cin.	2	49	24.5	44	0
St. Brown, Hou.	2	45	22.5	35	0
Radachowsky, Jets	2	45	22.5	45	0
Lyles, Hou.	2	42	21.0	27	0
Robinson, K.C.	2	42	21.0	25	0
E. Daniel, Ind.	2	34	17.0	34	0
B. Jones, Ind.	2	26	13.0	23	0
Merriweather, Pitt.	2	26	13.0	15	0
Rockins, Clev.	2	25	12.5	15	0
Clayborn, N.E.	2	24	12.0	24	0
D. Smith, Den.	2	21	10.5	15	0
E. Gibson, N.E.	2	17	8.5	17	0
Harper, Clev.	2	16	8.0	16	0
Randle, Mia.	2	16	8.0	11	0
Burroughs, Buff.	2	11	5.5	14	0
Hooper, Mia.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Judson, Mia.	2	11	5.5	10	0
Haynes, Raiders	2	9	4.5	7	0

t—Touchdown
Leader based on most interceptions.

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Team Punting

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Total Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
Detroit.....	70	2927	60	41.8	6	0	34	177	22	37.6
New Orleans.....	63	2587	60	41.1	7	0	29	199	23	35.7
L.A. Rams.....	77	3140	62	40.8	4	1	43	317	19	35.6
Atlanta.....	83	3375	62	40.7	11	2	48	541	11	31.5
N.Y. Giants.....	91	3604	64	39.6	7	2	51	811	14	29.2
Dallas.....	84	3324	63	39.6	6	0	45	376	21	33.7
Green Bay.....	93	3659	65	39.3	6	1	54	422	17	33.5
Chicago.....	62	2439	71	39.3	8	2	26	339	15	31.3
Tampa Bay.....	88	3455	61	39.3	10	0	50	621	15	29.9
Washington.....	78	3053	77	39.1	8	1	37	231	19	34.1
Minnesota.....	79	3077	54	38.9	5	1	44	424	11	32.3
St. Louis.....	70	2663	68	38.0	5	1	36	489	16	29.6
San Francisco.....	68	2541	56	37.4	8	1	29	195	16	32.1
Philadelphia.....	102	3770	60	37.0	5	3	54	469	18	31.4
Conference Total...	1108	43614	77	.....	96	15	580	5611	237	.....
Conf. Average.....	79.1	3115.3	.....	39.4	6.9	1.1	41.4	400.8	16.9	32.6

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Total Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
San Diego.....	84	3529	57	42.0	13	0	43	429	16	33.8
Cincinnati.....	73	2995	58	41.0	9	0	42	299	13	34.5
Kansas City.....	69	2789	55	40.4	6	0	43	442	13	32.3
Pittsburgh.....	82	3297	57	40.2	17	2	46	395	13	31.2
Denver.....	65	2595	61	39.9	6	2	34	424	16	31.6
L.A. Raiders.....	71	2796	63	39.4	5	2	34	256	15	34.4
Houston.....	75	2929	59	39.1	6	1	43	454	7	31.4
Seattle.....	61	2370	63	38.9	5	0	32	251	18	33.1
Miami.....	63	2424	77	38.5	3	1	26	141	20	35.3
Buffalo.....	83	3173	67	38.2	9	1	35	179	23	33.9
Indianapolis.....	78	2941	63	37.7	8	3	39	376	15	30.8
New England.....	89	3350	73	37.6	12	2	41	397	15	30.5
N.Y. Jets.....	82	3046	58	37.1	7	0	33	162	14	33.5
Cleveland.....	57	2102	66	36.9	8	0	17	93	14	32.4
Conference Total...	1032	40336	77	.....	114	14	508	4298	212	.....
Conf. Average.....	73.7	2881.1	.....	39.1	8.1	1.0	36.3	307.0	15.1	32.7
League Total.....	2140	83950	77	.....	210	29	1088	9909	449	.....
League Average.....	76.4	2998.2	.....	39.2	7.5	1.0	38.9	353.9	16.0	32.6

Individual Punting

NFC

Player—Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
DONNELLY, Atl.....	61	2686	62	44.0	63	8	2	38	501	9	32.1
Arnold, Det.....	46	2007	60	43.6	46	4	0	22	104	17	39.6
Landeta, Giants.....	65	2773	64	42.7	66	6	1	38	606	13	31.0
Hatcher, Rams.....	76	3140	62	41.3	77	4	1	43	317	19	35.6
Bracken, G.B.....	72	2947	65	40.9	73	5	1	45	354	13	34.2
Cox, Wash.....	63	2571	77	40.8	64	7	1	29	193	14	35.0
Hansen, N.O.....	52	2104	60	40.5	52	6	0	23	135	19	35.6
Horne, Cin.-St.L.....	43	1730	57	40.2	43	7	0	25	237	6	31.5
G. Coleman, Minn.....	45	1786	54	39.7	46	3	1	30	323	5	30.5
Saxon, Dall.....	68	2685	63	39.5	68	5	0	36	260	20	34.2
Runager, S.F.....	55	2157	56	39.2	56	7	1	23	167	13	33.0
Garcia, T.B.....	62	2409	58	38.9	62	5	0	38	553	12	28.3
Teltschik, Phil.....	82	3131	60	38.2	83	4	1	47	399	13	32.0
Cater, St.L.....	39	1470	68	37.7	40	2	1	17	204	10	30.7

AFC

Player—Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
MOJSIEJENKO, S.D.....	67	2875	57	42.9	67	12	0	37	392	15	33.5
Newsome, Pitt.....	64	2678	57	41.8	65	13	1	36	373	8	31.5
Fulhage, Cin.....	52	2168	58	41.7	52	5	0	31	216	10	35.6
Horan, Den.....	44	1807	61	41.1	46	5	2	22	186	11	33.1
Goodburn, K.C.....	59	2412	55	40.9	59	5	0	39	403	13	32.4
Talley, Raiders.....	56	2277	63	40.7	57	5	1	28	207	13	34.6
Gossett, Clev.-Hou.....	44	1777	55	40.4	45	6	1	23	234	4	31.6
Camarillo, N.E.....	62	2489	73	40.1	63	8	1	34	333	14	31.7
Rodriguez, Sea.....	47	1880	63	40.0	47	5	0	22	182	17	34.0
Stark, Ind.....	61	2440	63	40.0	63	7	2	33	353	12	30.9
L. Johnson, Hou.-Clev.....	50	1969	66	39.4	50	4	0	25	249	8	32.8
Kidd, Buff.....	64	2495	67	39.0	64	7	0	26	148	20	34.5
Jennings, Jets.....	64	2444	58	38.2	64	6	0	24	100	12	34.8

Leader based on gross average, minimum 38 punts

Individual Kickoff Returns

NFC

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
STAMPS, Atl.....	24	660	27.5	197	1
Gentry, Chi.....	25	621	24.8	188	1
Rouson, Giants.....	22	497	22.6	49	0
Lee, Det.....	32	719	22.5	50	0
Guggemos, Minn.....	36	808	22.4	42	0
Sikahema, St.L.....	34	761	22.4	50	0
Clack, Dall.....	29	635	21.9	48	0
Ro. Brown, Rams.....	27	581	21.5	195	1
Fullwood, G.B.....	24	510	21.3	46	0
Gray, N.O.....	30	636	21.2	43	0
Emery, Atl.....	21	440	21.0	66	0
Futrell, T.B.....	31	609	19.6	40	0
McAdoo, St.L.....	23	444	19.3	30	0
Griffin, Wash.....	25	478	19.1	54	0
Sanders, Chi.....	20	349	17.5	42	0
Morse, Phil.....	24	386	16.1	28	0

AFC

Player—Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TD.
PALMER, K.C.....	38	923	24.3	195	2
Bentley, Ind.....	22	500	22.7	45	0
Mueller, Raiders.....	27	588	21.8	46	0
Holland, S.D.....	19	410	21.6	46	0
Edmonds, Sea.....	27	564	20.9	43	0
Stone, Pitt.....	28	568	20.3	34	0
G. Anderson, S.D.....	22	433	19.7	31	0
Duncan, Hou.....	28	546	19.5	62	0
Starrin, N.E.....	23	445	19.3	43	0
Bussey, Cin.....	21	406	19.3	34	0

t—Touchdown

Leader based on average, minimum 19 returns

Individual Punt Returns

NFC

Player—Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Td.
GRAY, N.O.....	24	5	352	14.7	80	0
McLemore, S.F.....	21	7	265	12.6	183	1
Lewis, Minn.....	22	7	275	12.5	178	1
Sikahema, St.L.....	44	7	550	12.5	176	1
Mandley, Det.....	23	6	250	10.9	54	0
McKinnon, Chi.....	40	4	405	10.1	194	2
K. Martin, Dall.....	22	2	216	9.8	38	0
McConkey, Giants.....	42	14	394	9.4	37	0
Futrell, T.B.....	24	6	213	8.9	22	0
Johnson, Atl.....	21	6	168	8.0	45	0
Yarber, Wash.....	37	9	273	7.4	33	0
Stanley, G.B.....	28	4	173	6.2	48	0
Morse, Phil.....	20	13	121	6.1	23	0

AFC

Player—Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Td.
EDMONDS, Sea.....	20	4	251	12.6	40	0
James, S.D.....	32	7	400	12.5	181	1
Townsell, Jets.....	32	11	381	11.9	191	1
McNeil, Clev.....	34	9	386	11.4	40	0
Martin, Cin.....	28	5	277	9.9	21	0
Clemens, K.C.....	19	4	162	8.5	44	0
Schwedes, Mia.....	24	6	203	8.5	31	0
K. Johnson, Hou.....	24	5	196	8.2	26	0
Woods, Raiders.....	26	4	189	7.3	34	0
Pitts, Buff.....	23	12	149	6.5	19	0
Brooks, Ind.....	22	9	136	6.2	17	0

t—Touchdown

Leader based on average, minimum 19 returns

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IVY CONNECTION

Continued from page 139

one of his pet projects has been a counseling program for inner-city kids in Kansas City.

"Pro football is a wonderful lifestyle and opportunity," he says. "With just a few words, you can inspire a youngster. I would think that someone would like to look back on their life and know that they've made society a little better, that they've made a positive impact."

Just ask the Bengals' Williams. Now in his 13th pro season, he was the NFL's Man of the Year in 1986, the 1985 winner of the NFL Players Association Byron R. (Whizzer) White Humanitarian Award,

one of Sports Illustrated's 1987 Athletes of the Year, and one of the United States Jaycees' Ten Outstanding Young Americans for 1987.

The father of two young sons, Williams, a Flint, Mich., native who was born partially deaf in one ear, tutors children at the Cincinnati Speech and Hearing Center, sits on its board and helps raise money. His Reggie Williams scholarship fund has helped raise \$100,000 since 1983 for inner-city kids. He also has made several anti-drug commercials, gets involved with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs, and does United Way volunteer work.

At Dartmouth, he was All-Conference for three years and a Kodak All-America as well as a wrestler.

"It was a great experience; the degree I earned was the cornerstone of my confidence which allowed me to try pro football," says Williams, who's proud of the fact that he was the first Ivy League line-backer to make it in modern pro football. "I was a bookworm and football was more social and fun than a way of life. I never looked at it as a possible livelihood."

That was before the Bengals made him their third-round pick in the 1976 draft and the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League selected him on the first round. The Argos offered twice the money Cincinnati did, but Williams says, "I wanted to pursue excellence in academics and sports. I'd rather fail in the NFL than succeed in the CFL."

He became a starter in his rookie year and soon became known as a strong, aggressive tackler and good pass defender who's mobile and fast. One of the first lessons he learned in his rookie season was

that "there are some people out to hurt you on the field. A lot of guys wanted to teach the Ivy Leaguer a thing or two, so you have to defend yourself."

Initially, Williams wanted to put in five years to qualify for an NFL pension. Now, as his career wanes, he's looking in several post-football directions, including business, community service and, perhaps, even writing.

Like other Ivy players, he plans to leave the game on his own terms. He says he'll miss "the smell of the locker room, the kidding, the whirlpool. It's a very vivid image, waking up with bruises on Monday morning, and the bus and plane rides after a victory. But there are other things to do with your life and I want to do them."

The Vikings' 27-year-old Steve Jordan, who graduated from Brown with a civil engineering degree in 1982, is already getting a head start as a construction engineer with a Minneapolis general contracting firm in the off-season.

"Initially, pro football wasn't fun my first couple of years," says Jordan, who had received appointments to the Naval and Air Force academies as a high school senior in Phoenix. "I was playing on special teams and we went 3-13 in 1984."

"But a company I worked for during the 1982 players' strike called and asked me if I wanted to come back during the off-season. Now, that breaks up my life and gives me a better perspective on football."

"Believe me, I wouldn't mind taking an off-season off, but I want to get going on my career after football, and besides, I have to stay active. I can't just lay around."

Selected on the seventh round of the 1982 draft, Jordan initially had planned to play five years in the NFL, but that changed after he made the Pro Bowl in 1986, a feat he repeated last year. Now, as the Vikings are becoming solid playoff contenders, Jordan would like to give it at least another two years.

"If it's one thing about football that keeps me out there, it's the football players themselves," says Jordan, whose off-the-field interests also include reading, art, theater and the culinary arts. "They're great guys and I've developed some good, good friendships. As long as the game is fun, and I have that, I can't complain." ■

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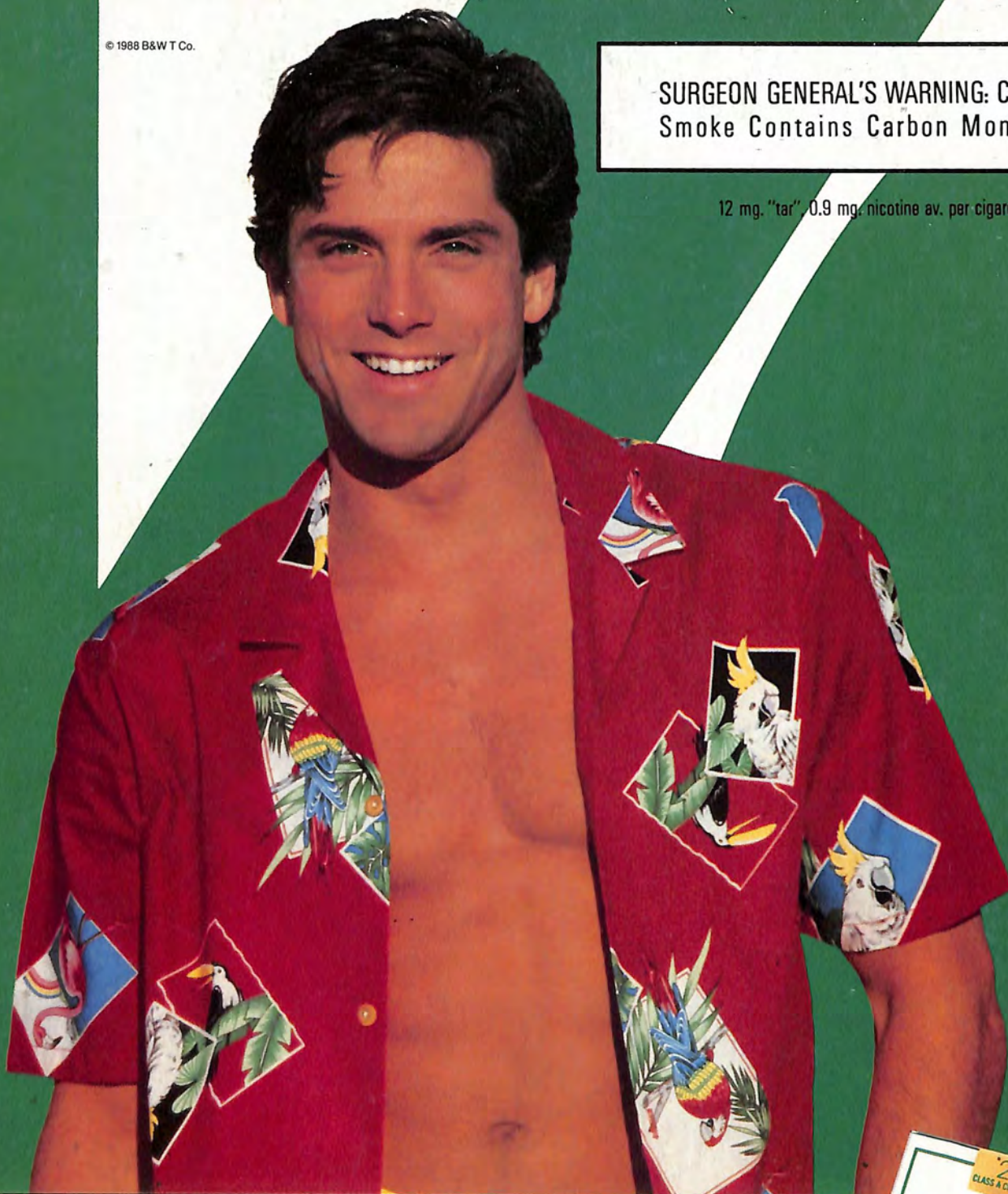
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